

# The Vocational Voice

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

Winter 2009



Mr. Davidson's class gathers to discuss citizens' rights.

## Honor Students Participate in Citywide Constitution Contest

by Syeda Ali

Twenty-two students from Mr. Davidson's honors American History class participated in the annual *We the People...The Citizens and the Constitution* contest, held at Pace University in lower Manhattan, on Thursday, Jan. 8. Queens Voc competed against seven other schools.

Tensions were high before the competition when students spent their free time memorizing answers to possible questions. "I was very nervous, I didn't know what to expect," said Franklyn Panora, a Queens Voc contestant.

Competing schools performed in separate rooms. At 9:45am, the judges entered the room where the Queens Voc students were waiting, and introduced themselves. The students did so as well. The judges then asked each group a question related to its unit, which the students had to answer within four minutes. After the initial

questions, there were six minutes of follow-up questions.

Six units were covered in the contest: the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system, how the Framers created the Constitution, how has the Constitution been changed to further the ideals contained in the Declaration of Independence, how the value and principles embodied in the Constitution shaped American institutions and practices, what rights the Bill of Rights protects, and what challenges might face the American Constitutional democracy in the 21st century.

Students were judged based on understanding; that is, on how well they understood what they were discussing. There were four judges for each of the six units. The judges looked for how well the students supported their ideas and made sure they answered all parts of the question. The judges also

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## DCW has Competitive Edge

by Joel Pena

DCW participated in the Local Business Plan competition on Monday, Dec. 15. The school's Virtual Enterprise company executives presented their business plan, placing fourth, giving them a spot in the City-Wide Business Plan competition. This was the first year Queens Voc attended the citywide competition since DCW was established four years ago.

In the citywide competition, held on Friday, Jan. 9, DCW made two presentations, but was not selected to go on to the finals. Of the 19 participating VE firms, representing 18 schools, only six VE businesses were selected to go on to the final round.



George Serna: DCW CEO

Virtual Enterprise is a program in which students develop and run a virtual company that helps them learn how a real business works.

The business plan is a huge part to the company because it is a guideline for the students.

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Syeda Ali participated in the Model City Council.

## Queens Voc Student on the City Council

by Lorena Bonilla

Syeda Ali, a senior business student, represented Queens Voc at the seventh annual New York City Model City Council on Saturday, Dec. 6, at City Hall.

The Model City Council was coordinated by CUNY.

Fifty-one students, representing 27 schools, participated in the citywide program.

To be eligible, students had to: have been enrolled in or have completed a College Now course or workshop, be scheduled to graduate in 2009 or 2010, be nominated by Ms. Newman, and they had to be available to attend all four training sessions and the final event. Students were selected based on their transcripts and essays about the NYC Council and what experiences they want to gain from the program.

Four training sessions took place at the CUNY Graduate Center to prepare for the final event, which was held at City Hall.

The Model City Council program gives high school students a chance to serve as a council member. In those roles, students debated changing the current two-term limit on elected officials to a three-term limit. The actual City Council debated the issue and passed the change, allowing the mayor and the City Council to serve for three terms.

Syeda, as well as the majority of the students, opposed the extension of term limits. "We debated the issue in City Hall, where actual City Council members were present. When the debating was over, the decision was made that there should be no extension to term limits," she said.

"I feel I learned a lot from the experience and I am actually considering a study of political science," she said. Not only does this give students a feel of what politics is all about but it also helps with public speaking. "I definitely recommend this program to other kids who are interested in government and like to debate," she said

## Regents Schedule January 2009

January 27 Tuesday	January 28 Wednesday	January 29 Thursday	January 30 Friday
9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am
Living Environment	Physical Setting/Earth Science	U.S. History & Government	Global History & Geography
Mathematics B	RCT in U.S. History & Government	RCT in Reading	RCT in Writing
RCT in Global Studies			
1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	<b>Good Luck!</b>
Comprehensive English: Session One	Comprehensive English: Session Two	Mathematics A	
RCT in Mathematics	RCT in Science	Integrated Algebra	
		Physical Setting/Chemistry	

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looked for teamwork. Each judge scored the students from zero to ten, in six distinct categories, with the highest possible score a 60. The judges scores were added up to get the total score for each unit.

Some judges were more lenient than others, giving generous feedback such as, “you guys are gifted,” “you guys will be good lawyers, it would be an honor to work with you,” and “one thing I really liked about your presentation is you speak with sincerity, you come from the heart.” Yet others were more critical saying, “you need to give a deeper analysis,” and “you have to work on your presentation.”

After lunch, there was an Obama Inauguration Speech Contest. The first place prize was a \$100 gift card to J&R, second place was \$50, and third place was \$25. Of the fifteen students that participated, four—Luis Fernandez, Freddy Gomez, Neil Kamath, and Asaduz Zaman—were from Queens Voc. But the speech contest was more of a popularity contest and although the Queens Voc students gave commendable speeches, they did not have much support from their fellow students.



**Luis's inaugural speech.**

The speech was followed by an awards ceremony. The first awards went to the four students who advanced to the state competition in Albany. Although Queens Voc did not advance to the state competition, Mr. Davidson feels his students gave a good performance and said he was proud of them. Also receiving awards were the teams that had the highest score in each unit. The Queens Voc students who covered unit two—How the Framers created the Constitution—won an award for their outstanding performance. Neil Kamath, the group leader for unit two said, “I am happy my group won because we worked really hard and also because we get extra points in our report card.” Jeffrey Carrion, Jonathan Carvalho, Franklyn Panora, and Asaduz Zaman, were the other group members.

Mr. Davidson started preparing his students for the contest in the middle of November. He taught his students 39 lessons on the U.S. Constitution. He then tested his students on their knowledge of the Constitution and used the results to divide his class into six groups, each of which was responsible for one unit.

Eight students from Pace University helped Mr. Davidson prepare his class for the contest. The students came to Queens Voc every Monday of November and December to work with Mr. Davidson's class.

Mr. Davidson has had his students participate in the contest since it began in 1987, 22 years ago. Mr. Davidson said the Representative for Congressman Thomas Manton contacted schools in District 26 asking who would be interested. “I jumped at the chance,” Mr. Davidson said. “What I liked was that the contest parallels the 11th grade curriculum. I thought the materials were well done and I enjoy teaching the lessons.” He said that most students enjoyed participating and learn a lot from the contest.

This year, for the first time, participating schools had to pay a thousand dollars to participate.

Mr. Davidson mandated his students to participate in the contest in some way. In previous years, it was an option for students to participate in the contest. They had the other option of writing a five page essay on one of the questions from their unit.

Mr. Davidson said that students benefit by participating in the contest because they develop research skills, public speaking skills, poise, teamwork, and confidence. They also learn a lot about the Constitution and how it relates to our lives today.

We the People...The Citizen and the Constitution is a nationwide contest sponsored by Congress. The contest began in 1987, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution. Though it was supposed to last for five years, the contest was so successful that Congress decided to continue funding it.

The students that participated in the contest are: Jeffrey Carrion, Jonathan Carvalho, Huang Chen, Luis Fernandez, Paola Ferreira, Freddy Gomez, Juan Hernandez, Neil Kamath, Jefferson Lawrence, Cesar Liang, Kunga Likchung, Richard Luu, Thomas Mazzarella, Tulio Mesa, Eleazar Morales, Milton Morocho, Franklyn Panora, Jakub Piekarz, Jazmin Ramirez, Michael Rodriguez, Christy Urena, and Asaduz Zaman.

## Yearbook Committee: Off to a Great Start



**Students & advisors plan exciting yearbook for seniors.**

by John Florido

Two advisors and 22 students are working on the senior yearbook, which is due to be completed in March.

Some of the many features the yearbook includes are school teams, spirit week, the food festival, senior personalities, and all the senior shop classes in action. “We try to make the yearbook fair and show everyone instead of showing only one shop class,” said Mr. Stefanidis, one of the yearbook committee advisors.

The pictures in the yearbook have been taken by the students. Mr. Stefanidis then looks through the pictures to make sure they are appropriate for the yearbook.

Mr. Stefanidis keeps the members of the yearbook on strict deadlines. Brian Green, a member of the yearbook committee, said that he likes working on the yearbook, but “it

is very stressful work trying to put the pictures and interviews together.” Thirty-two completed pages are due in January, another 32 in February, and the final 32 in March.

Seniors can create their own page for a price of \$150. An announcement about this will be made soon and the students interested will be walked through the process.

Assisting Mr. Stefanidis is Ms. DeCarlo. The students who make up the yearbook committee are Ashley Abreu, Amanda Andrews, Aja-Amara Bennett, Cindy Bravo, Jean Carvajal, Luis Flores, Kelsey Garcia, Christopher Gomez, Karolina Gorna, Brian Green, Christopher Green, Yvonne Johnson, Justin Kroon, Alexandria Lumpkins, Crystal Muniz, Julissa Perez, Magdaline Rodriguez, Shirley Rodriguez, Simranjeet Singh, Monica Suazo, Keisha Tyler, and Tony Vu.

## Skills USA Update

by John Florido

The advisors of Skills USA for Queens Voc, Mr. Cintron and Mr. Rivera, are currently in the process of finding eight to ten representatives for the upcoming statewide competition. No representatives have been chosen yet but they are hoping to have representatives from each shop class.

The advisors are also looking for students who have good speaking and math skills.

For those who are interested, an in-school competition will be held for each shop class this month. The in-school competition will be used to choose which students will represent the school in the statewide competition. The first place winners of the state competitions move on to compete in the national competition.

To participate in the school competition, the students have

to be passing all their classes, must have good attendance, must be recommended by their shop teacher, and have to have paid a \$13 Skills USA membership fee.

The \$13 membership fee is not the only cost. For students participating in the statewide competition, the school has to pay \$185 for the hotel and a \$75 registration fee. “The students may have to raise funds to help pay these costs,” Mr. Cintron said.

For more information students can go visit Mr. Cintron, Mr. Rivera, their shop teacher, or they can go to [nysskillsusa.org](http://nysskillsusa.org) and [skillsusa.org](http://skillsusa.org).

**Join  
Skills USA  
& represent  
Queens Voc.**

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“We build upon it every year and each year we try to turn our threats into opportunities and our opportunities into strengths,” said Mr. Mugan, the Virtual Enterprise teacher.

DCW is divided into seven departments, accounting, information and technology, sales and marketing, editorial, human resources, administration, and office management. Each department of the company creates a different part of the business plan. While developing the business plan, the students also look for ways to obtain more recognition for their company.

This is the first year that DCW has partnered with a real corporate partner, Michael C. Fina. With the help of their new partner, DCW has developed a new service, for other virtual companies, called the “Employee Recognition Program.”

The trade shows are always a big part to the DCW because they help raise revenue and recognition. The most recent trade show took place in Queens Voc. “Even though we rushed it during the last minute, we raised a lot of revenue,” said George Serna, the CEO of DCW. This recent trade show was a big success for DCW, they raised over \$30,000 dollars in virtual revenue that day by selling their featured clothing. Virtual Enterprise is also planning to have another trade show in Queens Voc either during late January or early February.

One of the biggest trade shows that DCW participates in is the New York City Trade Fair, taking place on March 26. This trade show is international, meaning that people from other countries will come to New York City to view different virtual companies there are. This trade show is an important step for Diverse City Wear, said George Serna, because they want their business to become known to all those companies around the world.

Virtual Enterprise is also planning to send their CEO, George Serna, to Austria for a week to attend a trade show on March 11 and 12. George was selected by Mr. Mugan, Ms. Newman, and Ms. Vittor, after interviewing for the opening. His objective is to is to market DCW products abroad and help Diverse City Wear become better known around the world. “We are opening the doors to international trade because our dollar value is still lower than the value of a Euro,” said George Serna.

“It keeps getting better, the company is getting more profit and the quality of the students’ work is getting better,” said Mr. Mugan, describing this year’s Virtual Enterprise class.



# Robot Building Begins

by Christopher Gomez

The Robotics Club at Queens Voc has finally received the information needed to begin construction on the robot they will enter in the upcoming robotics competition.

As reported in the first edition of *Vocational Voice*, the Robotics Club has constructed a functioning cart and is now set to construct a robot that will compete in an annual meet at the Jacob Javits Center. The competition challenges students to work together to develop their engineering skills as the build a robot to rigid specifications.

The Robotics Club has, thus far, built a remote-controlled cart that will be used to carry the actual robot. However, since its initial construction, the club felt that it could have a more refined appearance and, accordingly, have stripped its outer shell down to redesigning its appearance. To assist in the redesign effort, the construction team, which primarily consists of Peter Beninati and David Guilfuchi, has recruited the aid of many juniors. According to David, the combined work of all the contributors is allowing the project to run smoothly.

In early January, the club received the specifications and

rules for this year’s competition. According to Peter, the competition takes place March 6-8, and they will have until the first competition day to complete the robot. “Last year, we had to build a robot that could move quickly, as well as pick up and carry a ball. This year, the requirements to compete are completely different,” said Peter. In this year’s competition, the goal is to build a robot that will move on a traction-deprived terrain (smooth surface) and tow a trailer behind it.

“To build the robot is a major part of the competition, but the interesting part happens at the actual event,” Peter said “where we have to throw these weird, hallowed-out balls into the other club’s trailer while its slipping around during the match.”

After examining the specifications for the construction of the trailer, some of the juniors were astonished at how in depth the instructions were, which stipulated everything from the diameter of the trailer, down to a tenth of an inch, to the material from which the trailers bumpers must be made.

The robotics club will soon hold tryouts for people who are interested joining the club and shooting the hollowed-out balls into the trailers at the actual competition. Any students interested in joining can speak with Mr. Ali or visit the club in room 346.



*Future engineer troubleshoots robot ics controller.*

## January Regents Prep Provided

by Clarissa Tse

“Regents prep is geared to help kids pass” and will be offered both before and after school said Ms. Vittor, principal. Students should attend the prep classes to get better prepared and to feel more confident about their upcoming January Regents exams, she said.

Three Regents prep classes began in early January: social studies, English, and Math A. The social studies prep class is taught by Ms. Wilson on Mondays, Wednesdays, and

Thursdays; English prep class is taught by Ms. Ridge on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the Math A prep class is taught by Mr. Diamont, but further information was unavailable.

The January Regents prep classes will finish Jan. 26.

Regent’s prep will be offered again in May and June, to prepare students for the June Regents. Students interested in signing up for the spring Regents prep classes should see their guidance counselor for further information; it’s not too early to enroll.

# Independent Study not so Independent

by Fahim Islam

Independent study projects are no longer available. Now, students report to a predetermined classroom and complete a worksheet every Tuesday during 8th period.

The subjects are still the same: art, music, and Spanish. The new design for independent study requires students to complete 30 to 40 worksheets, each with a lesson on it. A new worksheet is distributed each week, along with a grade for the previous week’s sheet. Students who already have these credits are scheduled for study hall on that period.

This new strategy will be followed every week for the entire school year.

Mr. Garcia, Ms. Ruiz, and Ms. Quartuccio coordinate the art program and Mr. Abreu and Mr. Rivera coordinate the Spanish program. Coordinators for the music program have not been selected yet.

Students who take art this semester will take Spanish next semester, and students who take Spanish this semester will take art next.

Music credits will not be administered until the spring term at Queens Voc.

Leticia Huero, a senior majoring in electronics, was currently scheduled for Spanish and does not prefer the new strategy. “I would rather do the project on my own time,” Leticia said. “I learn better on my own and don’t think we are learning anything this way.”

Paul Cabral, a senior majoring in electrical installation, agrees that the new strategy is unfavorable to students. “There was nothing wrong with the original plan,” Paul said. “I started the projects late but still got it done and passed.”

Not everyone is opposed to the new strategy though. Steven Abreu, another senior majoring in electrical installation, feels that this strategy is effective. “The assignments are really easy and can be finished in ten minutes,” he said.

Mr. Garcia also believes that the program is successful. “The program is going very well,” he said. “Students are completing worksheets and teachers like this new method.”

Ms. Vittor believes that completing independent studies through the new design is beneficial to students. She continued to explain through this method, students are forced to sit down and learn something

new rather than copying and pasting projects straight off the internet as they had done in the past. Many students cut the tutoring period that was established to help students. Now, students cannot cut or else a credit will be missing, and in turn restrict graduation.

“Seniors were saying that they were stressed with jobs, college classes, and projects too,” Ms. Vittor said about the independent study classes. “This approach provides a way to alleviate some of that stress.”

Freshmen take advisory on Tuesday during 8th period.



*Chatty students between classes cause others’ lateness.*

## Hectic Hallways Students Practice Social Skills

by Josue Manzanares

The bell rings and students fill the hallways. Many congregate and talk, not particularly interested in getting to their classes on time.

These students make it difficult for teachers and other students to get to their own classes. “My suggestion to students is to walk and talk. It appears hallways are so hectic because students are not in a rush to get to class, and when the late bell rings, they’re still in the hallways talking to their friends,” said Mr. Mendez, a dean. “Addressing latecomers as they walk through the door, or locking the door as the late bell rings would be the best solution,” added Mr. Mendez. “If latecomers are allowed to walk in, they must be addressed immediately. And points should be taken away; if doors are locked, latecomers and hall walkers can be dealt with by security and deans.” This will foster the interest of arriving to class on time, he said. Mr. Schimenz, another dean, said that he believes the hallways have gotten worst, because there are few ways to effectively deal with lateness and teachers have become exasperated.

“Some of the most crowded periods of the day are before and after periods 4 through 7,” said Ms. Watkins, a math teacher. “These periods are the lunch periods, and it is when the second floor is most crowded,” she said. It becomes more difficult to get by when you have kids waiting outside the lunchroom to get in and you have another big group of kids waiting outside as well that

don’t belong in that lunch period. “So I take points off of kids who come late to my class whether they have late passes or not. If they have late passes, I don’t take off as many points as someone who doesn’t. This stops kids from coming late to my class, period!” said Ms. Watkins.

“I try to go up from the first floor to the second floor leaving fifth period, and there are just too many kids either coming down or just standing in the stairwells not moving,” said Argenis Santos, a senior. “Everyone uses the same staircase and it gets too crowded, which then makes me late,” he added. “I get really annoyed

**“My suggestion to students is to walk and talk.”**

because I get to class late when it isn’t my fault.”

“There is no rush, the class isn’t going to leave,” said Kelvin Ventura, a senior. “When I’m late I get yelled at, blamed for disrupting the class, points taken off a quiz and some teachers don’t let me in the classroom. So I’d rather walk around instead,” Kelvin said. And he is not alone.

“I don’t run to class, I socialize on the way,” said senior Erwin Gonzalez. “I wake up late and get to school late. Some teachers complain, threaten me, and I lose points,” Erwin said. “It’s not always my fault, some teachers want to talk to me after class, and that slows me down, which is why I’m in the hallways so long.”



# Students Gain Experience in Construction Skills

by Ivana Nunez

Construction Skills is a non-profit organization that prepares New York City public high school students and residents of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) for careers in the building and construction trades. Over the years, numerous Queens Voc students have been trained in their pre-apprenticeship training programs, which give qualified New Yorkers direct entry to apprenticeship opportunities from unions and contractors.

The Construction Skills website says that their pre-apprenticeship programs help individuals understand the demands and skills needed in the building and construction trades.

Construction Skills is offered to electrical installation seniors and plumbing seniors in Queens Voc to show them the different construction careers firsthand. Usually, 10-12 students from plumbing and 10-15 from electrical are accepted into the program from Queens Voc.

A representative of Construction Skills came to Queens Voc in November to speak to juniors and seniors about the opportunities the program has. “Construction Skills offers our students an opportunity to join the union and have a secure job and training,” said Mr. Rivera, a plumbing teacher.

High school students who enter the program participate in a 10 week pre-apprenticeship program that involves introductory subjects on a variety of trades. After the 10 weeks, according to the Building Trades Union Jobs = New York’s Future booklet, published by Construction



Luis hopes to join program.

Skills, the students continue for four more weeks during the summer showing students the more practical side of building and construction. Mr. Ali, the interim-acting assistant principal for the trades and technology department, said that Construction Skills is “a gateway for students to enter the 18 different unions without the conventional hassle of getting an application and interview process.”

Construction Skills is a highly selective and rigorous program. Mr. Ali, Mr. Maloney, and Mr. Rivera discuss which students have the determination and ability to be successful participants in the program. “It’s a good opportunity for students of the SSBT to get exposed to the various unions in the construction industry,” said veteran EI teacher Mr. Maloney.

Many EI seniors are interested in participating in Construction Skills. Senior EI student Luis Arias “would like to be in Construction Skills,” he said because he knows “it is a good opportunity” and he likes doing electrical work.” Alex Almanzar is another senior EI student who wants to participate. “I would like to go to Construction Skills because it is a great opportunity and you have to take full advantage of these opportunities because they don’t come very often,” he said.

Applications are due Friday, Jan. 23. To get more information visit constructionskills.org.

## Auditorium Construction



We thought we’d show you the progress on the Auditorium, but the construction crew wouldn’t let us.

# Perfect Attendance

by Beatriz Gonon

Sixty-seven Queens Voc students have attended school everyday and on time, from the first day of school on September 2, 2008 to January 7. Of the 67, 28 are freshmen, 16 are sophomores, 13 are juniors, and 10 are seniors.

According to the information provided by Mr. Daniel, attendance coordinator, these are the students who achieved perfect attendance:

### Freshmen

- Jordy Abreu
- Muneeza Ahmed
- Jonnathan Avila
- James Batista
- Yaasmeen Birmingham
- Alice Chee
- Alexis Crespín
- Luis Delatorre Hern
- Abdoulaye Diallo
- Luis Gonzales
- Jonathan Gordon
- Jon Guaman
- Zheng Hu
- Salvatore Isabella

- Sandra Jarro
- Marcia Leva
- Anita Lopez
- Jose Monegro
- Wilson Morocho
- Tina Pahlad
- Pawel Pietraszko
- Samuel Point Du Jour
- Randy Prashad
- Gregory Rousseau
- Preet Pal Singh
- Billy Vargas
- Wincell Vargas
- Daniela Vidal

### Sophomores

- Mert Avcu
- Erica Diaz
- Freddy Flores
- Roger Haynes
- Yaneet Hernandez
- Edwin Herrera
- Qizhuo Li
- Kevin Peterson
- Erik Quintuna
- Marcos Romoleroux
- Raymond Rosa
- Kevin Rosario
- Jaime Saquipulla
- Kevin John Sasuman

Meliton Vasquez  
Jingjie Wu

### Juniors

- Jonathan Carvalho
- Julietta Cuanetl
- Alejandra Espinoza
- Vinny Lam
- Cesar Liang
- Byron Loja
- Richard Luu
- Christian Miranda
- Yesenia Orellana
- Steven Pabon
- Jazmin Ramirez
- Carmen Roman
- Crisheber Soriano

### Seniors

- Mujammil Ali
- Maxwell Ayisah
- Azmain Azad
- David Beltran
- Cristopher Gomez
- Fahim Islam
- George Manolas
- Joel Pena
- Pervej Rahman
- Clarissa Tse

## Students meet Convicts off Broadway

by Luis Flores

On Saturday, November 22, three Queens Voc students accompanied by three staff members and a group from LaGuardia Community College attended *Castle*, an Off-Broadway play in which four ex-convicts, Angel Ramos, Vilma Donovan, Kenneth Harrigan, and Casimiro “Kaz” Torres, share their life stories and experiences while incarcerated.

Mitchelle Vega, a senior majoring in cosmetology, said that before watching the play, the entire group attended a workshop at LaGuardia from 2:30 to 4pm. She said the play was quite different. “*Castle* isn’t like any other play I’ve seen, with singing and dancing; instead the four ex-convicts sat on a stage and told us their life stories starting from their childhood to their jail release dates. This play was really touching. The only female, Vilma, even cried. The emotion the actors used was so great that I couldn’t help being moved by them,” Michelle said.

Ms. Green, an English teacher, attended because “I thought it would be beneficial during times when I help my students with personal issues.” Ms. Green said she found Kaz’s life story the most appealing because she felt that throughout his life he was a victim of his mother’s drug

abuse. “*Castle* helped me get a better idea of a student’s mentality when facing similar issues,” said Ms. Green.

Ms. DeCarlo, a social studies teacher, also found Kaz’s story the most interesting. “It is amazing how Kaz faced so many hardships in his life but he was still able to cope with them and overcome them in order to become a functioning adult. The story I least liked was Angel’s because I can’t imagine how bad the argument was that he killed his best friend,” said Ms. DeCarlo. She said that as a teacher who deals with 34 kids, five times a day, there is much potential for students to be facing similar situations. “I am grateful I was able to see the play,” Ms. DeCarlo said.

“I found it interesting how four ex-convicts could come together to provide people with such an inspiring play. The main purpose of the play is to help others by discouraging them from making the same mistakes

the ‘actors’ made,” said Brian Green, a senior C-Tech major. “I learned that people shouldn’t give up because although they may face many bad situations, a good thing will happen eventually. People should never give up the second chances they are given in life,” said Brian.

“*Castle* was very inspiring and it helped me realize that your choices can have long-term consequences,” said Shirley Rodriguez, a senior Cosmo major. I think the producers did a good job at picking the speakers, because they all come from different ethnic backgrounds and economic status. They also faced different types of problems throughout their lives and as a result anyone could relate to at least one of their stories,” said Shirley, who added that she really liked the play and would recommend it to individuals of all ages.

Mrs. Newman said that the tickets were provided by the College Now program.



Actors, with QV representatives, weren’t really acting.



# STUDENT ORGANIZATION

## OFF TO A GREAT START

by Jinet Collado

Students who join the student organization, known as the SO, get a lot of benefits.

They are able to use the hall lockers and get reduced prices for all SO trips. They can also attend home basketball games in the gym and get reduced prices for entries to all school events such as talent shows, heritage celebrations, and other special events and competitions.

In order to become an SO member, students simply pay a \$3 membership fee.

Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, and his leadership students, along with some SO members, come up with the topics and themes for the SO activities.

Although Mr. Vega and his leadership members create most of the activities, some, such as Operation Santa and City Harvest, are City-wide activities.

Operation Santa took place in December. Leadership students, including Mr. Vega, picked up letters from the General Post

Office located on 34th Street, to determine what they would have to buy for the children, who sent letters to Santa.

Leadership students went around the school asking for



The Holiday Dance in Dec. was a huge success.

donations from teachers and students, to help buy the items the children asked for. They collected \$790 in donations. With the money, the leadership students went to Target to buy the children their presents.

The Queens Voc students delivered the presents, themselves to the needy children. “Seeing the joy on the kids’ faces when they received their gifts just melted my heart,” said Joana Garcia, a senior in business and a leadership member. David Francisco, another senior and leadership member, said that “Operation Santa was a very heartwarming experience. When the other leadership members and I went

to deliver the presents, the smiles on the kids’ faces were as perfect as Kodak moments.” [See the article “Christmas Came Early This Year” for details.] City Harvest which took place from Nov. 24-Dec. 12, was

another way the Queens Voc community helped those in need. Rather than money, teachers and their students were asked to donate food. All types of non-perishable foods were accepted.

To get more students and staff members involved, and to encourage school spirit, Mr. Vega, made it into a competition between shop classes.

After the food was collected, City Harvest had the food picked up and brought to food pantries and shelters throughout the city.

The holiday dance on Friday, Dec. 19, was on a snowy day. But despite the weather, about 115 students that attended. Tickets for the dance were two dollars for SO members and four dollars for non-SO members. “The dance was great, said Francis Reyes, a junior in electrical installation; they played a lot of different music which made it very fun and successful.” Ramon Gil, also a junior in EI, added, “Although the dance was popping, the music wasn’t all that great, but it was alright.” Junior Carlos Jimenez, another EI major said he “got his money’s worth. The dance was very fun and it was way better than last year.” Last year’s dance was ended early after a student’s wallet was found, but missing his money.

# Dress for Respect

by Gregg Nana

“No head gear is permitted. Students may not wear hats, hoods, doo-rags, scarves, bandanas, or headbands in school. No clothing will be worn advertising alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances. Pants and shirts must completely cover the waist area and shoulders. Tank tops, halters, and midriff tops are not permitted. Shorts and skirts cannot be shorter than 4 inches above the knee. Students are not permitted to wear excessively low necklines.” These are some of Queens Voc dress code regulations according to Principal Vittor in an August 2008, letter sent to parents and guardians. A spokesperson from The New York City Department of Education said that school dress codes are determined by the school principal.

Ms. Vittor said most students follow the school’s dress code, but some students wear shirts with obscene writing and drawings, and some male students wear their pants below the waist, exposing their underwear. Mr. Rodriguez, a dean in Queens Voc, is disgusted by how male students expose their underwear. Teachers also notice another problem. Mr.

David a C-tech teacher believes female students are also wearing skin tight pants, tights, and occasionally wearing shirts with very low necklines. Many students don’t think this is a



problem, but teachers such as Mr. David argue that clothing is being worn inappropriately exposing there bodies. Senior business student Cynthia Rojas, said, “The way people dress all falls into a stereotype, you’re judged by what you wear. You wouldn’t wear inappropriate clothing to go to a job interview so why do it in an educational ground.”

Jonathan Rodriguez a senior in business said that wearing jeans below the waist is comfortable and he doesn’t think that it’s a big issue. “You’re not in a corporate building working or trying to impress anyone,” he said. “We’re in a school with a bunch of teenagers, so why care?”

Jonathan added that the more the jeans sag the better.

Some public schools, such as P.S. 166, require uniforms. Uniforms equalize students; they won’t be judged about what they wear, when they are wearing the same thing, explained Ms. Vittor, who likes the uniform policy and while she doesn’t think Queens Voc needs uniforms, “thinks it would be cool.”

There are limits on just how far a school without uniforms can go with dress codes. Supreme Court decisions have framed out limits on students’ clothing as an issue of free speech, but those limits primarily involve messages on t-shirts.

We don’t have to like how other people dress.

# Stop Thieves!

by Dharvin Govindeisami

Thefts can occur anywhere. At Queens Voc, items are occasionally stolen from hallway and gym lockers, and even from classrooms.

According to senior Jerry Hernandez, earlier this year someone broke into his locker and stole his iPod. He investigated the theft, asking his friends if they heard anything, and he tried to find out who was around his locker during the day. A few days later he recovered

his iPod. “Because the thief probably noticed I was investigating this crime, he probably got scared and managed to place the iPod back into my locker,” Jerry said. Jerry suggests that students buy the Master brand combination locks. He said that they are truly asking for their stuff to get stolen by buying the cheap knockoff combination locks.

According to Luis Arias, another senior, someone broke into his locker earlier this year and stole his book bag. This incident might not sound that important, but, he said, he “had valuable notes and a project in this book bag.” Luis said that his grades in most of his classes were affected by this incident, and that he doesn’t know why anyone would want to steal a book bag that had nothing more valuable than notes from his classes. Luis said he felt violated and that he hopes no one ever has to go through this because it is “just chaotic.” Luis suggests that when students approach their lockers they should look around at the people nearby. Luis also recommended that students not flash around their valuables, because others might be jealous and one day attempt to steal the belongings.

If you see something, say something

Spirit Week was an SO event held Nov. 17-21. All students were encouraged to participate in Spirit Week, which had a different theme for each day of the week. The themes for Spirit Week were: Single/Taken Day on Monday, Grade Day on Tuesday, Sports Day on Wednesday, Twin/Triplet Day on Thursday and Swap Day on Friday. Denisse Soto, a senior in cosmetology was not a huge fan of this year’s Spirit Week. “Spirit Week was okay but I feel as though more people should’ve been involved. I think the themes for Spirit Week were good but not to an extent where other students wanted to participate.”

Some of the upcoming activities planned for SO members include attending a Knicks game, going ice-skating, and having a Valentine’s Day Dance.

# MTA Hiring Apprentices

by Larissa Puig

Queens Voc students have an advantage compared with students in non-trade schools because students attending Queens Voc graduate with a license or a certification in their major. This increases their possibilities of a better job and income.

Students in SSBT (electrical installation and plumbing), can apply to the MTANYC Transit Apprentice Program, which gives graduating seniors in SSBT a chance to learn on the job. This program seeks students with electrical, (HVAC, lighting, ventilation, drainage, and electro-mechanical), plumbing, or carpentry experience.

According to Mr. Maloney, an EI shop teacher, to qualify for the apprenticeship program, students must have no more than five days absence, and no more than five instances of lateness during their senior year. Students must be doing well academically and behaviorally and students must be recommended by Ms. Vittor, the school principal.

Requirements include a minimum of two to four years of verifiable work experience as an electrician, or possession of a journeyman’s card, along with experience with large motor generators and high voltage circuitry.

Students interested in getting further information about the apprentice-ship program should consult their shop teacher or guidance counselor.



# Calendar of Events

compiled by Larissa Puig

**January 20 and 21-** Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science make up lab #3 will be held in room 203. Living Environment make up lab #3 will be held in room 211. See Mr. Gorman for further information.  
**January 22-** Girls’ varsity basketball vs. Wagner  
**January 24-** SAT reasoning and subject test. Wrestling vs. South Shore  
**January 26-** Last day of the third marking period  
**January 27 to 30-** Regents week. See Regents schedule on front page for dates and times.  
**January 30-** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Franklin K. Lane

**February-** Black History Month: listen for Black History moments and events on the morning announcements.  
**February** [date not given]- Valentine’s dance  
**February 2-** Fall Term Ends: No Students in attendance  
**February 3-** Spring Term begins. Girls’ varsity basketball vs. Frank Sinatra  
**February 4-** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Bryant  
**February 5-** Girls’ varsity basketball vs. Grover Cleveland  
**February 6-** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Forest Hills  
**February 9-** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Grover Cleveland. Boys’ wrestling vs. Grover Cleveland

**February 10-** Girls’ varsity basketball vs. American Studies  
**February 12-** Honors Society Ceremony, 5:30pm. Girls’ varsity basketball vs. Info Tech  
**February 16 to February 20-** Midwinter Recess. Students return Feb. 23  
**February 23-** Students return to school. Boys’ JV basketball vs. Newtown  
**February 25-** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Aviation  
**February 26-** CTE Showcase, 6pm to 8:30pm. School Leadership Team meeting, 4pm  
**March** [date not given] - Senior luncheon  
**March** [date not given]- Spring food festival.

**March** [date not given]- College fair  
**March** [date not given]- Poetry Slam  
**March 1-** Beginning of girls’ softball, boys’ baseball, and handball. Softball and JV baseball schedules were not posted as of January 11.  
**March 13-** Last day of the fourth marking period.  
**March 24-** Boys’ varsity baseball vs. American Studies  
**March 26-** Parent-Teacher Conferences

**March 27-** Boys’ varsity baseball vs. American Studies. Parent-Teacher Conferences  
**March 31-** Boys’ varsity baseball vs. Flushing.  
**April 2-** Boys’ varsity baseball vs. Flushing.  
**April 3-** Boys’ varsity baseball vs. Robert F. Wagner Jr.  
**April 7-** Boys’ varsity baseball vs. Jamaica  
**April 9 to 17-** Spring break, students return Monday, April 20  
Continued next edition.

## SED & SES hold Award Ceremonies

by Laura Gonzalez

Two Queens Voc smaller learning communities (SLCs) have begun holding awards ceremonies to commend students for their achievements in school. The award ceremonies, which are held in the student cafeteria, acknowledge students for their accomplishments in and out of the classroom, said Mrs. Newman, director of the school of Entrepreneurial Studies (SES). The award ceremonies, it is hoped, will also encourage other students to do better.

“The students are doing very well and they hadn’t been recognized for their academic achievements; it’s always important to propagate scholarship,” said Mr. Garcia, one of the coordinators of the award ceremonies.

SES and the School of Exploration and Discovery (SED) are the two SLCs that have held award ceremonies for their students.

SES and SED students attend the award ceremonies to receive awards on perfect attendance, honor roll, most improved, and best in class. More than a hundred awards have been given out just in the past two

marking periods. “The students want to be recognized for their hard work; hopefully it’ll inspire other students to improve as well,” said Mr. Garcia.

“The teachers like the ceremonies; they like to celebrate student achievement and their own students’ success, Mr. Garcia said. “Everyone comes together to celebrate,” he said about the unity the assemblies fosters. “I think these ceremonies will create a sense of community between the SES students and staff,” said Mr. Garcia.

SED student Elixandria Brienza received “Best in Class,” and “Passed All Classes” awards. “I felt really good to receive an award because I felt like I accomplished something. I think this will help motivate the other students to do better,” she said.

SES student Victoria Lindner received an award for perfect attendance. “I was proud of myself for coming to school everyday,” she said. “I think this is good; it makes us feel special and it shows us that the staff is there for us.”

The ceremonies are even used to recognize the SLC for group successes. At the SES ceremony, Mrs. Newman announced that as of October,

SES students had attained a 92% attendance rate, a 6 percentage point increase over last year.

“Our goal is to expand the ceremonies, make them more theme-like and colorful. It’ll make the students more excited and it will make them want to celebrate their success more,” said Mr. Garcia.

## Financial Aid Tips

by Laura Gonzalez

High school students planning to attend college have a lot to think about, such as what school they will attend, and how will they finance their schooling?

Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, processes over 14 million applications and gives out more than \$80 billion annually, according to the FAFSA website.

Students can apply for FAFSA by visiting fafsa.ed.gov and registering for an account with them. Students will have to provide personal information such as their Social Security number, address, phone number, and future college plans. This account will also ask for financial information such and family income.

There are 3 steps to filling out the FAFSA application: **Step 1:**

Before beginning, gather the required documents: Social Security, high school transcripts, SAT or Act scores, parents’ income tax forms.

- Determine your dependency status.
- Complete the FAFSA on the web worksheet.
- Search for school codes
- Students & parents apply for a pin.
- Check for application deadline dates.

**Step 2:** Fill out the application.

The FAFSA has seven steps that ask students for financial information, school plans, and more.

- Fill out your FAFSA.
  - Open your saved FAFSA or correction application.
  - Sign electronically with your pin.
- Step 3:** View your results online. You can check the status of your application, make corrections to a processed FAFSA, and get other information.

- Check status of a submitted FAFSA or print signature page.
- Make corrections to a processed FAFSA.
- Add or delete a school code
- View and print your student aid report (SAR).

Mrs. Talley, the college advisor, said that students should start applying for FAFSA as early as January.

For further information or assistance visit the FAFSA website at fafsa.ed.gov, or visit Mrs. Talley in the guidance suite.

## Meet Ms. Ocampo: Guidance AP

by Luis Flores

When Mr. Rivera, the assistant principal of Pupil Personnel Services retired recently, Mrs. Ocampo was brought in to fill his position.

Mrs. Ocampo has a huge responsibility as Queens Voc’s newest assistant principal. “The duties which come along with this position include a small part of everything throughout the building. I oversee every child in the building to make sure they are making progress in their academics by attending their classes and following a program best suited for them,” said Mrs. Ocampo.

Mrs. Ocampo says she also plays a role in making sure each student is helped on an emotional basis if necessary. “If I feel like a child is going through any problems concerning their education or home life, I could either sent letters out to their

parents or speak to them personally,” Mrs. Ocampo said.

“My role as the administrator of pupil personnel staff is to observe different offices and make sure each one is working properly,” said Mrs. Ocampo. She said she also makes sure, through evaluations, that all counselors are continually doing their best to help the students.

Mrs. Basirico, the guidance counselor for the SSBT, meets with students and parents on a daily basis. “As a new guidance counselor, Mrs. Ocampo has been here for me every time I’ve had a question or concern. By supporting my decisions when it comes to counseling students, meeting with parents and with teachers, Mrs. Ocampo has made me feel more comfortable with my new position.

Before coming to Queens Voc, Mrs. Ocampo was the COSA, senior advisor, a College Now teacher, and a psychology advanced placement teacher at Grover Cleveland High School.

Here at Queens Voc, Mrs. Ocampo said, she has an “Open Door Policy,” and encourages all students with or without a problem to come in and talk her in room 155. Mrs. Ocampo said it will be difficult to build a one on one relationship with each student and hopes that students will take initiative in approaching her.

“Each child is unique and so it is important that the counselors and all other individuals who work with kids are ready for such a huge responsibility,” she said.

Michelle Bravo, a sophomore majoring in cosmetology, said Mrs. Ocampo was very comforting regarding a recent attendance issue. “Since I was having an attendance problem, Mrs. Ocampo set up a meeting with me and my mom. Although I was already making efforts to solve the problem, Mrs. Ocampo’s advice helped,” said Michelle.

“I am thankful and honored to be in such a great school,” said Mrs. Ocampo.



Mr. Garcia and Ms. Talley announce award winners.





**Working on clients help students develop social skills.**

## A Makeover a Day Keeps the Doctor Away

by Maria C. Moreno

The senior cosmetology class has been visiting senior centers to provide manicures, facials, and haircuts to senior citizens at the Sunnyside Community Center, Ravenswood Community Center, Jacob Riis Community Center in Queensbridge, and the Greater Allen Cathedral Community Center in Jamaica.

According to the Cosmo teachers, by visiting these centers and providing services to senior citizens, the girls earn eight job credits for each visit, towards the seventy-four jobs they need to complete by the end of the third marking period, for credit and a passing grade. They also earn hours to help them complete their sexy hours needed for the work-based learning program and to receive their endorsed diploma.

The students practice their skills when providing service to the seniors. They also get real life experience. “I really like visiting the centers because we get to work on real people instead of manikins. It also gives us a taste of what different attitudes we have to deal with if we work in a real salon one day, because some seniors are really nice and others are really grumpy,” said cosmetologist Kathya Xochmitl.

Most of the girls like attending these senior center trips not only because they receive job credits and hours for attending, but also because they enjoy the seniors. “I really like going to the centers because you get to work on seniors and they’re very friendly, some of them are hilarious,” said Jacqueline Vallarta, another senior cosmetologist.

The girls are not able to take all the equipment and supplies needed to perform their full range of services. They are not able to take, sinks to wash hair, hair dryers when they do roller sets, or hair coloring to dye hair. “The worst part about this is

that at the centers there is not enough power for all hair cutting people to use blow-dryers at once, we have to take turns and wait around and it gets annoying,” said student Pamela Ramirez.

“The girls are very talented. They are doing a great job. A lot of our customers come back because they are satisfied with the service,” said a senior cosmetology teacher, Ms. Quartuccio.

A new PM school program now allows cosmetology students to make up the hours they need began Dec. 9. The class meets every Wednesday and Thursday during 9th and 10th periods. Students who need to complete their 60 hours for the work based learning program, have not accumulated the necessary hours, or need extra help in certain cosmetology areas, are able to qualify to attend PM school. This will help the students become eligible to take the State Board exam, which requires that students must have 1,000 instructional hours, consisting of theory and practical work. If they pass this exam, the cosmetology students receive the New York State cosmetology license.

## Budget Cuts?

by David Beltran

“Economic crisis,” are two words that Americans have heard constantly over the past few months. Companies are cutting jobs and the stock market has tumbled, but one topic that doesn’t get as much attention is the budget cuts to the New York Department of Education.

Queens Voc lost roughly \$100,000 this year out of an initial budget of \$9,900,000. Overall, however, Queens Voc’s budget increased from \$9.2

million in 2008 to \$9.8 million for this school year. Although Queens Voc’s budget has increased, Mr. Mayer said that because of tough economic times, the school should be ready for more budget cuts.

The school’s budget is given to Ms. Vittor in May and it is ultimately her decision on how the money is distributed. After receiving this year’s budget, she decided not to cut any staff or classes. Instead, Mr. Mayer said, “the school tried to save money by cutting back on supplies such as paper, pens, pencils, and new computers.” As for classrooms, he said that textbooks were not affected and that the budget cuts have not yet affected the way students are taught.

While Ms. Vittor managed the budget, she says it might not have been possible without students sending in their lunch forms. “Thanks to almost all students bringing in their lunch forms, Queens Voc became a Title 1 school for the first time,” she said. Title 1 schools have high percentages of low income families. Queens Voc received \$600,000 in Title 1 funds this year. Without these funds, Ms. Vittor says she might’ve had to cut CTE programs. However, Mr. Mayer added that while the school did receive extra funds for being a Title 1 school, where the money can be spent is limited.

More budget cuts are expected to continue for all schools in New York.

## The Future of FBLA

by Sasha Almanzar

As soon as the school year began, the FBLA team got right to work. The students sent Thanksgiving cards to teachers, and hosted their first bake sale of the year.

FBLA, the Future Business Leaders of America, also held the fall district meeting at Queens Voc, in which three state officers and three other FBLA clubs from different schools attended, giving the team recognition on the official FBLA website’s newsletter.

“Being a member of FBLA does not require you to use a lot of your physical skills but it challenges you to use your mental and creative skills while learning to become an effective competitor and leader,” said Ms. Mitchell, business teacher and FBLA adviser. FBLA does require its members to attend all meetings and assist in the organization’s activities. “FBLA

is a great opportunity to be exposed to competitive events through out the nation, and it’s a great chance to improve our community,” said Luis Fernandez, president of FBLA. The team is preparing for their upcoming competitions, meeting twice a week, Mondays from 4pm to 5pm and Tuesdays during period 5.

This year the team is planning to compete on local, state, and national levels. One of the biggest competitions is the spring state conference which is held upstate, every year. “One of our main goals is to compete and at the same time succeed, by gathering enough money to be present at the spring state conference,” said Asaduz Zaman, vice president of FBLA.

FBLA has nine members: Shannel Cole, Luis Fernandez, Edwin Herrera, Neil Kamath, Joel Pena, Daniella Jean Philippe, Catherine Vasquez, Guadalupe Victoria, and Asaduz Zaman.



**FBLA members learn that knowledge is power.**

## Senior Class Activities Already Underway

by Monica Tito

Seventy-eight seniors went to the Honors Haven Resort and Spa in Ellenville, NY, for their senior trip, which was held Friday, Jan. 16, through Sunday, Jan. 18. This was the first time since beginning overnight trips that Queens Voc has used two charter buses.

Earlier this year, seniors got to pick their trip location from among three options: Pinegrove Resort Ranch, Nevele Grande Resort, and Honors Haven Resort and Spa.

The winning location was Honors Haven Resort and Spa, which was recently renovated, had been a senior trip location in previous years. It includes a variety of activities such as: free all-day snack bar; Playstation, Wii, XBOX room; free laser tag; karaoke night; free skating and snow tubing; free admission to night club; and skiing, paintball, and horseback riding/trail ride for an additional cost.

Senior Elihu Hernandez said he voted for “the Honors Haven

### Class of 09

Resort and Spa because there was a good amount of activities that the other two did not offer.”

[Note: The newspaper went to print during the senior trip. See next edition for a recap.]

Mr. Vega and the senior officers organized the senior trip and are in charge of organizing all senior activities. The senior officers are: Ivana Nuñez, president; Joana Garcia, vice

president; Joel Peña, treasurer; and Jeslenny Grullon, secretary.

Fundraisers such as the food festival and candy sales helped lower costs. In the food festival on Tuesday, Nov. 25, seniors raised \$1,600. Seniors were required to pay \$140 for senior dues and \$269 for the trip, but “many seniors are able to pay off their dues with the candy boxes,” Mr. Vega said.

The seniors have more activities to look forward to, such as the luncheon and the prom in the spring.



**Seniors held their food festival in the auditorium hall.**



by Michelle Cotrina

OSHA, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, certifies workers in job-safety procedures. At Queens Voc, an OSHA safety course is taught to the morning Electrical Installation (EI) class, by Mr. Bowen. Although this course can be offered to anyone in the School of Skilled Building Trades, Mr. Bowen, who is currently the only teacher who is certified to teach this course, is an EI teacher.

“I think it’s a great opportunity because it will help

## by Gregory Paul

Sixteen student-volunteers went to the Post Office on 33rd St and 8th Ave in midtown Manhattan on Wednesday, Dec. 3. Chaperoned by Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, the volunteers went to read the holiday wishes of poor kids or of struggling mothers in need. The volunteers selected letters written by Queens residents. The students

Mr. Bowen is not available to teach the afternoon class because he has other classes to teach. "I am very concerned about this situation; as the only teacher teaching this course, I get many complaints from students who are not getting certified," he said. Mr. Bowen added that he's working with other EI teachers trying to resolve this problem. "The only solution I see," he said, "is swapping schedules with an available EI teacher, so I can get the afternoon students certified."

who attended were: Chanel Alston, Tracy Ambrossi, Beshion Bailey, Shennel Cole, Jessica Delarosa, Darlene Fernandez, David Francisco, Erwin Gonzalez, Karolina Gorna, Jeslenny Grullon, Aaron Lorenzana, Ivana Nunez, Gregory Paul, Joel Pena, Shirley Rodriguez, and Mark Smartt.

“This is a good chance to do something right, if you do right for people, you will be blessed,” said Beshion Bailey a senior, and member of leadership, who went on the trip. The Queens Voc students read numerous letters, and selected 16 of them. These letters asked for children clothing, toys, gloves, hats and other needed items.



## by Shirley Rodriguez

“Receiving an endorsement on high school diploma proves that the student has graduated with a trade as well as the required academic credits. My



In two weeks, the students raised \$790, and on Monday, Dec. 15, they went to Queens Place mall to shop for gifts at Target. They bought children's shoes, clothing, toys, books, art products and all the other items that were asked for in the letters. After the gifts were brought back to school, the students packaged and wrapped the gifts.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, student volunteers delivered the gifts to the children. Beshion Bailey, David Francisco, Joana Garcia, Aaron Lorenzana, Starlin Sanchez, and Narine Singh delivered the gifts to the southern and western areas of Queens, such as Richmond Hill and Queens Village. Jessica Delarosa, Jeslenny Grullon, Justin Kroon, Cristian Rodriguez, Shirley Rodriguez, and Magdaline Rodriguez delivered gifts to the children in the northern and western areas of Queens, such as Corona and Elmhurst. "The kids were very grateful and thankful for the gifts we got them," said Aaron.

Ms. Spallone has helped many students find a place to work in their own neighborhood. “After speaking to Ms. Spallone I was able to interview with a salon

Students interested in participating in LEARN, should see Ms. Spallone in the morning in room 411.

Ms. Vittor, the principal, made the decision to hire Vanguard to send postcards to students' homes when they are absent from school or a class. Vanguard was chosen because it is the only company that sends postcards. Mr. Daniel said Queens Voc pays Vanguard 59 cents each time a postcard is sent. Before, Queens Voc had Outreach, a system that sent letters and made phone calls, informing parents when their

What do the students think of this new system? Senior Stephanie Trochez said the postcard system is a good idea because it “makes students go

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please find below, current information about your child's attendance.

( ) has been absent from school on:

10/14/2008

If you have not already contacted the school, please provide us with the reason for the absence(s) in the space below along with your signature. Return this card in a stamped envelope to Queens Vocational and Technical High School at the school address on the reverse side of this card.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Reason for absence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Queens Voc has all the attendance records registered in a database called Automate the School (ATS). Vanguard has access to the school's attendance record through ATS. Each time a student is absent or cutting, Vanguard is automatically notified and sends the postcards. On the postcard, parents or guardians are asked to give a reason for the absence, sign it,

Next time you miss school or skip class, expect a postcard in your mailbox.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



# Blocked! Websites off Limits

by Josue Manzares

Students frequently complain about trying to access a website for research, only to find the website blocked by the Department of Education.

Teachers also experience this situation.

MySpace, YouTube and sports-related websites are just a few examples of websites not accessible on school computers.

“These rules were established to protect students from inappropriate material,” said Ms. Lewis, the school librarian. Ms. Lewis said she was told that sports-related websites are not accessible because of sports gambling concerns. But students researching colleges often cannot even check to see what teams the colleges have.

“There are times when I try to look for information for a school project, and having blocked websites doesn’t allow me to access the information I’m looking for,” said Andy Vasquez, a senior.

Mr. Zambrotta, a history teacher, said that he, too, has found blocked websites frustrating. “I was trying to listen to a streaming video on

Barack Obama on the website NCR, and I was unable to do that even though it had to do about politics,” he said.

“I try searching for stuff for class work on the school computers and not only does the computer get slower, but it doesn’t let me go on any of the



websites I need,” said Paul Cabral, another senior. “If I need something, I can’t get it,” he added.

The school does not have total control over what can and can’t be accessed, but the school can specifically block and unblock websites. “The Department of Education decides what websites are accessible, depending on what words it contains,” said Ms. Lewis.

All schools are monitored by a proxy, a computer program that acts as a filter and limits

the websites that can be accessed, by blocking pre-determined keywords.

“I’m in favor of blocked websites, not blocked keywords,” said Mr. Zambrotta. He feels that certain keywords can ruin it for a really good website, which can then affect a student trying to access information.

“I think the school should unblock websites that have to with educational things,” said Andy Vasquez. But Paul “If students have problems looking for information, then they shouldn’t do it in school at all, they should do it at home,” said Paul Cabral.

“The internet connection and performance is slowed down in the whole building when all the computers are on the internet at the same time,” said Mr. Cintron, a computer technology teacher and Mouse Squad advisor. “A few years ago, many students were using the computers constantly to get on chatting or entertainment websites, and some teachers complained that students were getting no work done, wasting their time and getting distracted,” added Mr. Cintron.

# Principal’s Message



## QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Denise Vittor, Principal

The end of the third marking period is upon us, and that means midterms and Regents exams are just days away. This is what some call “crunch time”, time to make sure you get all of your work submitted, study for exams and make up any work that was missed. If you were the type of student that took a laid back approach to schoolwork, then now is the best time for a resolution to work hard and get things accomplished. After all, if things don’t get done now, they will have to get done later, and perhaps, at a cost of poorer grades, or summer school. It is certain that now is the time to pass Regents exams as well, especially for seniors! Every year, some students do not heed my advice and end up wishing they had because now they were destined for summer school, or worse, another year of school instead of graduation!

Since it is always easier to give advice than to live it, how can all of this advice become action? First, attend every class every day in January. Second, commit to completing homework, projects, science labs, etc., each week for the next 3 weeks. Third, take out those Regents review books, go online and complete sample Regents tests, study your notes and do examples that will prepare you for your tests. After all, it is just till the end of January. Everyone can commit to something and do it for 3 weeks, right? See if it yields a positive outcome for you. You will be surprised at how much you can accomplish in just 3 weeks. Once you see how your hard work has made a difference, it will give you the confidence to continue on this path of success. Remember, every day is a new opportunity to be successful.

On that note, I wish you success both in your classes and on your Regents exams. Do you wish it for yourselves? Well, then there is no time like the present to work on it!

Sincerely,  
Denise Vittor



# Students Elect SLT Reps

by Esteban Soler

Hundreds of students in SES and SED went to the polls on Wednesday, Jan. 14, to elect one 9th grader in SED and two students in SES to represent them on the School Leadership Team, an advisory group for the principal.

Senior Joana Garcia and junior Luis Fernandez, both from SES, were elected to two-year terms, and Daniel Corona, a freshman, was elected to a one-year term.

The elections were held during each SLCs lunch period. The turnout was nearly 40% for each SLC.

Ronald Polanco, a sophomore, ran unopposed as a representative for SSBT.

The very next day, the SLT met after school in the library. Ms. Vittor welcomed the new student members, saying she looked forward to their input.

Daniel Corona said that he “felt at ease” and believes he can make a difference on the SLT.

# Late to Class

## Does it matter?

by Fahim Islam

Have you ever gone a day in school without witnessing a student late to class? And although this may be an issue, very little is being done to stop this. You see, many people already know the importance of being on time but just do not care.

Lateness is simple to define: the act of arriving to class after the late bell has rung. There are no ifs, ands, or buts about this.

Some students fear lateness because they believe that frequent lateness causes failure of the class. David Santiago, a senior majoring in electronics, knows this for a fact. “I failed History because I was late all the time,” he said. “But even when I had notes, the teacher didn’t care.” Many students, however, care very little about lateness

and regularly arrive well past the late bell.

Teachers are just as split as students on this topic. Many teachers care a lot about lateness. Mr. Lerro believes that time lost in the classroom is time that can never be returned so students should not be late. Students will slip further and further behind the rest of the class as lateness grows more frequent. In order to prevent unnecessary lateness, Mr. Lerro stands outside in the hallways and keeps students moving. Mrs. Wasilewski also understands the value of punctuality. She deducts points from a student’s overall grade for excessive lateness. Students think twice before going late to

her class. Mr. Ali, an electronics teacher, said he would go as far as failing an “A” student for being late, to get the message across: lateness matters.

But not all teachers have strict policies about lateness. Look in the halls after the late bells. Are all those students who are in the halls failing their classes?

“It is important that all students engage in all of the activities,” Ms. Vittor said. “If students aren’t there the whole time, they miss out.” Lateness matters to many teachers and it matters to many students. So does lateness really matter in Queens Voc? For the most part, yes, lateness is important in Queens Voc. Unfortunately, it doesn’t matter to everyone.



# Commentaries, Commentaries, Commentaries



*Just another day in the hallways of Queens Voc.*

## *For Some, Cutting Class is a Daily Routine*

by Michelle Cotrina

“I cut so much I don’t even know what class I’m cutting right now,” said Michael Rivas, yet the reason for cutting class, he said, is that he “hates the teacher.”

Students are beginning to feel like Queens Voc is more of a hangout spot than a learning environment.

Some students contradict themselves, saying that their class is too far, yet they end up walking around the entire school.

“We don’t like going to our 6th period class because we just ate, it’s right after lunch,” said Vivian Doliveria. But her friend, who prefers to stay anonymous, said, “It’s really because we are full and our class is like on the 4th floor, and it’s too far.”

Sang Chen, a junior, says that class is boring. “I’d rather cut class to hangout in the hallways than go to class,” she said. Apparently, some students aren’t thinking ahead. How do you expect to receive a high school diploma if you cut class everyday?

Not only does hall walking affect the students who are cutting but it also affects the students who are actually in a classroom. “I think it’s a distraction to students in class who are trying to learn,” said Ms. Kramer, “Some students find it hard to concentrate when the hallways are noisy.”

“I cut for no reason, and I feel stupid for it sometimes,” said Jeffery Urbina, who admits to wandering the halls for about three periods a day. “At times when I’m bored and I feel the need to stretch, I just skip that class and walk around the halls,” he said.

Walking around the building trying to interview different students who roam the halls, I came across 28 students who refused to be interviewed. That’s about the size of a class!

“I’m not cutting class, I’m only missing Ms. Nasreen’s

class, which I consider a free period,” said Jonathan Rodriguez, a super-senior.

Jonathan, who claims to be “a very good cutter,” said he’s “not proud of being a good cutter, but I know what to do, where to be at, who not to bump into and what to say to whomever I run into.”

For some students, it is an everyday routine to cut specific classes.

Danny Fernandez, who cuts periods 6, 7, and 9 everyday, finds it easy to pass the classes he cuts, with the exception of one class. “I have a friend bring me the work, I then make it up and just hand it in to the teacher whenever I decide to go,” said Danny. “I usually walk around, bump into my friends, and just hang out in the hallways,” he added.

“All Queens Voc staff should question every student they see in the hallways and ask for a pass” said Ms. Kramer, “We can’t force students to go to class but we can definitely try,” she said. But some of the students do have passes. Students often ask for the bathroom pass and end up taking advantage of it.

“I take the pass to go to the bathroom,” said Richard Gonzalez. “I go to the bathroom. As I’m walking back I check the 3rd floor, because that’s the hot floor; if there’s people there I stop and talk them and then head back to class,” he said.

His brother, Ryan Gonzalez, said, “I wander the halls in search of something more interesting than class...like women.” He said, he “asks for a pass about 3 times a day to just walk around the halls. A lot of the hall walkers believe that they aren’t doing anything wrong because “they have a pass.”

“Since I got suspended for cutting lunch,” said Jeffery Urbina, “I just do the school a favor and leave when I know I’m going to cause trouble.”

## *The Pros & Cons of SLCs*

by Ivana Nunez

Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs) are supposed to help students improve in their academic classes and majors by putting students in small groups according to their majors.

“SLCs allow academic teachers and Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers to interact with each other and discuss the student’s performance,” said Mr. McCarthy, who is in the School of Skilled Building Trades (SSBT). Student Alexandra Lumpkins, who is in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies (SES), said that it is good to break the students up into different groups by their majors because it helps students get closer.

They also separate us into clicks. Students stop thinking as a whole school and start thinking

only of their SLC or their major. Some students talk only of their SLC and the school suffers.

“It hurts our school because we are all divided into majors,” said Mark Smartt, who is in School of Computer Electronic and Engineering Technology (SCEET).

Mr. McCarthy, who supports SLCs, recognizes the drawbacks. “I think it hurts school spirit because with the SLCs not all students interact with each other during lunch periods and academic classes,” he said. “Though it strengthens the unity in the SLCs, it divides the school.”

School spirit is what keeps the school together and makes the school strong academically by bringing teachers closer to students so that they can work together. Is what we’ve gained worth what we’ve lost?

## *Share your locker, Lose your Stuff*

by Shirley Rodriguez

“Can I put my stuff in your locker today?”

What happens next is a series of events that often ends up with one student reporting the theft of an iPod or cell phone.

How does this happen? It begins with students giving their locker combination to someone else, and once others have the combination, personal belongings are at risk.

In the past, I have given my combination to others and the following morning, that student’s belongings as well as a friend’s were already inside my locker.

Sharing lockers is against school policy, but this rule is not enforced.



*Caught red-handed!!!*

Regardless of the enforcement of this policy, the policy itself makes sense. It is a bad idea to share a locker with anyone, even your friends.

Stories about missing items are heard frequently. These problems occur not only with hall lockers, but also in the locker rooms and Cosmo rooms as well. “There are always complaints in class when something can’t be found,” said senior cosmetology student Julissa Chavez. When others know a student’s combination and a theft occurs, it is difficult to find who is responsible for the theft.

The solution is simple. Students should act responsibly and keep their combination to themselves. To use a hall locker, students should simply join the SO by paying \$3 in room 143.

There are about 800 lockers available in the school but only 392 are being used. So why are people still sharing lockers?

Another solution can be assigning lockers to all students. If each student had a locker, then students wouldn’t feel the need to share.

Joining SO is not mandatory, and neither is protecting your property. If you share lockers, your possessions are more likely to be stolen.

## *Failure Really is an Option*

by Dharvin Govindeisami

Is failure really not an option? This issue is often addressed by students, teachers, guidance counselors, and even parents. Good grades can benefit us in the future, whether we’re looking to attend a good college or looking to get a good job.

Have we students lost sight of the importance of school? Many teachers would say yes. But they encourage students and show them that school can be an exciting adventure and have a positive impact.

“When I first came to Queens Voc, I told my students that failure is an option, said Mr. Bowen, an electrical installation teacher. “I also told my students that everyone in this classroom has the opportunity to score a good grade, however it is up to the students to succeed in this class.”

According to Ms. Basirico, a guidance counselor, “Failure is a choice,” and that “some students need good role models who will positively affect their lives.”

For students who have messed up Ms. Basirico offered this advice: “Never give up, believe in yourself and that you can make it, however it may not happen fast, but that should be a sign to fight harder.”

Ms. Basirico said that there are special programs designed for students who have not yet earned all their credits such as, PM school, summer school, YABC programs, and even satellite high schools.

And according to Ms. Dattner another guidance counselor, “Don’t give up because everyday you are given the opportunity to start again, and it’s a matter of believing in yourself while also working really hard.” Ms. Dattner also stated that standards have really changed since she was in high school. “I remember when I had to write term papers with at least one thousand words... it helped prepare me for college,” she said. Ms. Dattner encourages all students to try their best and work as hard as possible, because one day you will be rewarded for that effort. “I know that all Queens Voc students are capable of passing and that they are truly good kids,” she said.

Remember, failure is an option, but it is not an option we should choose. Also remember that, “Failure is not the lack of success, but failure is staying down when you’ve tripped or stumbled.”





# From the Senior Pres.

Hey fellow classmates! I know that I haven’t met all of the seniors in my four years at Queens Voc, but I can’t wait to meet most of you in our senior activities such as the senior trip and the prom. I am hoping that you all participate in all the school activities this year because these will be memories that will last with us forever. I hope that this senior year we can become closer as a family and really have fun together no matter what happens.

I know that at times there may be conflicts and disagreements between groups and friends, but we should put these problems aside and look at the bigger picture. We shouldn’t waste our time on who said what and who did this, but we should spend our time making this senior year fun. We are growing in maturity and I am sure that we can all get along without all the drama.

Since I have become more involved in the school, I have been able to meet more seniors and other students I didn’t know before. I’m glad I did because I see how special you all really are.

I would like to thank all the students and teachers who prepared trays of food for the senior food festival and for those students who helped serve the food. I would also like to thank everyone else who participated in the food festival and showed great support to all the seniors.

I want to encourage all the students to get more involved in the school’s activities and really show our school spirit and support, since we are the ones who make the school. If you want to get involved, you should pass by room 143 and get informed on different activities that are happening throughout the year. And listen to the morning announcements.

Lastly, I would like to thank you electing me your class president and I appreciate the support that you have given me. Classmates, if you ever need anything at all, please don’t be afraid to ask me, I am willing to help.

Your class president,  
Ivana Nunez

## Vocational Voice

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

# Hallways Do’s and Don’ts

by Clarissa Tse

Getting from one class to another would be a lot easier if everyone followed a few simple rules. Well, not rules, more like suggestions. Let’s call it hallway etiquette; simple Do’s and Don’ts. Commonly seen in Queens Voc, students tend to stand around in the hallways, making it difficult for students and teachers who are trying to get to their destination. Here are some suggestions.

### Don’ts

Don’t hinder others who want to get to class, whether or not you plan to go to your own class. Don’t wear hats and don’t take out electronics because those items will be confiscated by teachers or deans if you’re caught with them out. Students aren’t even supposed to be allowed into the building with electronic devices. If your cell phone or any other electronic device is confiscated, the only way it will be returned

is if a parent or guardian reclaims it for you.

Don’t push, shove, loiter, scream, run, or curse. Don’t horse around in the hallways. Horseplay can lead to accidental unnecessary injuries that can be easily avoided. Let’s not make things more complicated than it should be. Don’t bang on lockers violently while walking through the halls, it’s heard in classrooms, and disrupts classes. Dancing is another Don’t. Vandalism, another Don’t has also been a problem in Queens Voc. Don’t pull off any more plates with room numbers off the walls in the new wing. Students shouldn’t ruin school property, it’s only taking away from our school. Don’t Litter; we don’t want our school to be a pigsty. Staircases and hallways littered with crumbled papers does not help earn a good reputation for Queens Voc, especially when we have occasional visitors. It’s not a very good first impression.

### Do’s

Do get to class before the second bell rings. Avoid being late to your classes as much as possible. Do get to your next class without distracting other students or teachers on your way. Do be polite to your peers. Do respect of school property. Do encourage your friends who don’t attend their classes to go. Do throw your trash in a garbage pail.

Do treat your peers and teachers with respect. Do keep Queens Voc a clean environment; it will be more pleasant to everyone. Students and teachers of Queens Voc spend most of their day here, and a clean environment will make us all more comfortable. Do refrain from any inappropriate behaviors. And above all, do try to remember why you’re here. Do your class work and homework. Do get yourself an education and do graduate.

# Stop Cutting the Lunch Line

by Gregory Paul

It’s lunch time, a time for eating, talking, and relaxing. At the beginning of the period, some students get on the lunch line. But within seconds, the line becomes a mob because several students have skipped the line or have created additional lines. The crowd piles into the serving area and the chaotic struggle for food begins. This is what occurs nearly every lunch period at Queens Voc. This is an issue that has not been consistently dealt with, and has frustrated students as well as staff members.

Skipping in the lunch line is disrespectful to fellow students; it creates tension on the line and leads to more cutting, which creates the unorganized mob that slows down the process of getting food. Ms. Luna, school food service manager, said that cutting on the lunch line “is not fair to the people being skipped; it is unorganized and is not peaceful.” When students pile in all at once, Ms. Luna said, checking lunch cards, taking lunch money, and giving out food become difficult tasks for the kitchen workers.

“It’s ridiculous,” said Yahirt Artunduaga, a freshman who has 6th period lunch. “I get skipped everyday, everyone skips in this period, and it makes no sense because you’re eventually going to eat,” he said. Cindy Bravo, a senior who has lunch 7th period, is an admitted cutter, and justifies her actions:

“I do it because I’m super-hungry and other people do it first, I have to cut the cutters, anything they can do I can do better.”

Although the students are to blame for the cutting and the chaos on the lunch line, administration is also at fault for allowing this to happen. “It’s a combination,” said Ms. Luna, “students get out of order in the line and there aren’t enough staff members in the cafeteria to put them in order. “We’re not supposed to deal with organizing the students,” she added, stating that the kitchen staff is busy following the menu, cooking, cleaning, and carrying out procedures. Ms. Andrews, a school aide, claims that there just aren’t enough aides in the lunchroom at any given period to organize the line. “We always need two people at the door; one for ID scan, and the other to watch the door.” Ms. Andrews points out that there are only eight school aides in the entire school, and their services are distributed amongst: programming, attendance, guidance, the main office, and transportation, as well as the cafeteria. “We need more help,” she added.

Students cut the lunch line because they are impatient and selfish. They simply do not want to wait, and if someone gets in front of them, they won’t hesitate to do the same to others. As long as this behavior is tolerated, there will always be this problem in the lunchroom.

This is a good example of students taking the easy way out, while administrators allow them.

Something has to be done, and Ms. Luna thinks she has the solution. “Someone should be assigned to be in the cafeteria from the start of the period. They should call the students up table by table, line them up in two rows and make any cutters go to the rear of the line.” This method was applied in the past but it didn’t last, so the crowded lunch lines returned. Ms. Andrews has a different solution. “There should be three line-control personnel,” she said, one to watch the front, one the middle, and the other, the back. As to whom these people should be, Ms Andrews doesn’t know; she says that the deans are busy and the school safety agents aren’t always available. That is why she says she needs help, but Ms Andrews realizes that the budget doesn’t allow for hiring more school aides.

Organization needs to be implemented by administration. Students who try to follow the rules, have no control over other students who don’t. If there were organization on the lunch line, there would be no cutters (or cutters who cut cutters), the line would move faster, and there would finally be order on the line. It is time for someone to take the responsibility and control the lunch line, but it is also time for Queens Voc students to be civilized on school premises.



# OUR READERS SPEAK OUT

by Jeslenny Grullon

A large number of students sent us letters with their comments and suggestions about the fall edition of the *Vocational Voice*.

We received the most feedback on the article, “Why we’re locked out of the Bathrooms,” by Josue Manzanares. “I think what students have done to the new bathrooms shows that they lack respect for the school,” wrote Miguel Paulin. Philip Borisuck Jr. wrote, “This is a responsibility that should be taken seriously....” Luis Gonzales believes it was good to explain in an article why most of the bathrooms are locked. The rest of the comments were similar. Other students who wrote about this issue were: Teresa Agudo, Daniyah Ahmed, Bryan Balladares, Blessing Black, Carissa Caibal, Jonathan Calderon, Lisbeth Collado, Laura Cruz, Nallely DeJesus, Jose Diaz, Chorten Dolma, Luis Gonzales, Manli Hu, Alex Korsenko, Raylin Leroux, Daniel Marin, Mohammed Naseruddin, Bianca Padilla, Luis Parada, QianJie Qu, jairo Ramirez, Breanda Reynoso, Miranda Rivera, Taneya Scott, Jasmin Sosa, Wendy Tlapanco, Keisha Tyler, Leonardo Valencia, Lisette Vargas, and Yuan Wei.

Another article that many students wrote about was “Crackdown! Electronics and Hats Targeted,” by David

**“Program changes are very stressful,” wrote Jessica Vilorio.**

Beltran. Most of the students who wrote about this article agreed that the zero tolerance policy was working well and that fewer students are using electronics during class. Most of the letter writers, however, believe that cell phones should be allowed in school, but only for emergencies. Alexander Cruz agreed, adding that “The phones should be on silent in your pocket or book bag.” Alice Chee wrote that students should be allowed to have their phones because “Parents should be able to check up on you.” Santiago Criollo, Geovanny Day, Jordania Dominguez, and Natalie Kippes also wrote to us about this article.

Many students related their own experiences with the article “Good and Bad of Texting,” by Tony Vu. Students took both

sides of this issue. “Texting could be a good thing because it is a quick way of communicating,” wrote Andrea Sacharsky. Yet Billy Vargas recognized that “Texting can jeopardize our vocabulary, reading, and writing skills.” Other students who wrote about this article were: Gabriel Acuna, Aja-Amara Bennett, Paul Cabral, Anita Lopez, Kathy Matos, Yesenia Orellana, Denisse Soto, and Stacey Sumulong.

Five students wrote about the article “Policy on Cell Phones,” by Gregg Nana. Yerelyn Valle agrees that this year, the Queens Voc policy on cell phones has been more strictly enforced than ever, but she believes it’s ridiculous that parents have to come up to the school to pick up a cell phone. Maximilian Manticof agrees with Gregg that we should be allowed to have our phones in school. “Phones should not be confiscated during lunch. Lunch is our 30 - 45 minutes of time we get during school. It is our choice on how to spend it,” he wrote. Other students who wrote about this article were: Melissa Collado, Margaret DeLuca, Sabia Khan, Evelin Ramirez, and Gabriela Vazquez.

“Students Most Embarrassing Moments,” written by Jeslenny Grullon was one of our feature articles. Gregory Guevara wrote that sharing personal experiences can bring our school community together. Deyadira Enriquez wrote, “I find it very interesting to read. You get caught up and actually start reading all of them.” The majority of the students who wrote letters about this article found it funny or at least interesting. Martin Barrera, Jamel Delacruz, Deyadira Ennriquez, Jairo Marmolejo, Hassly Marquez, Marissa Mendez, Thomas Mazarella, and Brendon Nichols also wrote to us about this article.

Three students wrote about the article “Changes never Change,” by Gregg Nana. Jesibelle Vilorio wrote, “Program changes are very stressful. It gets annoying to worry whether you’re in the right class or not.” Samantha DeFelice believes a solution to the issue is to stop basing the programs on the fifth marking period and base it on the sixth, so that next year there are fewer program changes. Luis Peralta also wrote about this article.

We received five letters about “College Now Enrollment Up,” written by Fahim Islam. Students were glad to

read about the large number of students who enrolled into college classes this year. “I’m glad that more students joined the College Now program because it prepares kids for the real thing,” wrote Jarin Rahman. Rafael Duven, Hu Zheng Fa, Jun Li, and Sebastian Souchet all wrote letters about this article.

“Elite Salon Open for Business,” by Jeslenny Grullon

**“The pictures are kind of blurry and the pictures need colors,” Kelly Rios wrote.**

received two responses. After reading the article, Goldene Davis recommended that we should have published the whole senior cosmetology class in the paper. Naquel Slusher thought the article was great and wrote that she’s going to visit the Elite Salon one day.

Joel Pena’s article, “Movie Reviews,” was the subject of two responses. “The summary was excellent, but the opinion about the movie could have been different because certain people like certain types of movies,” wrote Pawel Pietraszko. Carlos Viteri found the review helpful. “It saves me money and time,” he wrote.

Joshua Lamor commented on John Florido’s article, “Skills USA.” Joshua thought it was very interesting that students get the opportunity to compete for state awards.

Luis Cruz wrote a response to the article “QV Kids Quite Talented,” by Lorena Bonilla. Luis found the article very interesting but wrote that it could’ve been more detailed. Violeta Kastrataj thinks “it’s a very interesting and cute topic to write about.” Monica Vargas also wrote about this article.

Karla Garcia read “VE takes 2nd place in Ad Competition” by Beatriz Gonon and agreed that friends should help other friends out to prevent them from dropping out of school. Amaris Quiroz and John Avila thought the questions in “What do our Students know?” by Joel Peña, were pretty easy.

Tracey Ambrossi wrote about the article, “Make way for Broadway,” by Clarissa Tse. “I think renovating the auditorium was not a good idea at all,” she wrote. Tracey thinks it’s a waste of time trying to make the school look better when there are other

more important situations to take care of.

We received three responses to Dharvin Govindeisami’s article “QV Website.” Abdoulaye Diallo wrote “I was disappointed to find out the school website was under construction.” Maria Vargas wrote that she’s “a junior now and the school still hasn’t fixed the problem.” Dalenis Caraballo also wrote about this article.

Dillon Maynor agreed with the interviewees in the article “Inquiring Photographer,” by Maria Moreno. “I would want to meet my real parents and ask them why they left me as a baby.” Ingrid Solarte wrote that she could relate to one of the interviewees in the article. And Telisha Thompson wrote that “You never know how much alike you and someone else can be.”

Kwanisha Broadnax wrote about “Senioritis Strikes Again,” by Clarissa Tse. “All seniors who are starting to feel lazy should read this article because it might motivate them to do better in school and to graduate.” After reading this article, Tania Garcia wrote, “it gave me an outlook for next year about how I shouldn’t fall for this so-called disease.”

Naveen Nicholas wrote that “Horoscopes,” by Fahim Islam, “it was a very interesting article and very informative.”

George Serna wrote about “Enterprising Students Run DCW,” by Michelle Cotrina. “I had a pleasure reading it,” he wrote.

Ricardo Ortega wrote that his favorite article was “Baseball Team, New Season, New Expectations,” by Laura Gonzalez. At the time Ricardo was a JV baseball player. He didn’t know he was about to be brought up to the varsity team!

Travis Partop enjoyed the “Word Puzzle” by Monica Tito, and suggested we use classmates instead of teachers next time we publish another article like this.

Chrisleidy Duverge wrote that “Calendar of Events,” by Josue Manzanares, “keeps us up to date with the specifics of what’s going on in our school.”

Victoria Lindner wrote a response to the article “Girls Bowling Wins Division,” by Lorena Bonilla. “I think this was a great article because Lorena went into detail and was great with her interviewing questions.”

Biaani Garcia enjoyed the fact that we didn’t only focus on seniors. “You included all four grades. That makes everyone feel like a part of not only this

school but this family.” But Amiee Oggen feels the newspaper spends too much space on seniors. “Not everyone cares, or relates to them,” she wrote.

The *Vocational Voice* also received comments about the newspaper in general. Lucy Ramirez wrote she liked the fact that the newspaper has lots of pictures of teachers and students. But Kelly Rios wrote “The pictures are kind of blurry and the pictures need colors. It’s too much black and white.” David Serrano complimented the sports section of the newspaper. Daisy Ramos wrote that she would like to join the school newspaper next year [Ed. Note: Students can see Mr. Schimenz to volunteer to write for the school newspaper. Juniors can see their guidance counselor to request Journalism as their senior English class.] Other students who wrote generally about the paper were: Marsha Longmore, Karolin Marte, Alexandra Mohamed, Jose Palomeque, Juan Ramos and Ariela Rodriguez.

In addition to the letters students wrote, we received an email from a parent. Mrs. Carolyn Peterson wrote, “I have enjoyed every issue my son

**John Avila thought the questions in “What do our Students know?” were pretty easy.**

brings home since he began Queens Voc & Tech last year. It’s a great way to showcase the school.”

We’d like to thank the English teachers for having their classes write to us. Except for the letter we received from Mr. Davidson, we received no letters from staff members or administrators.

The Journalism class received many anonymous letters from students. *But the Vocational Voice, however,* does not print anonymous letters. We urge students to sign their letters.

The letters we receive are important to us because we want to please our readers. We read them in class and enjoy them, even if they criticize our articles or our newspaper. Keep sending us letters about any article or with your suggestions to improve our school newspaper. Letters can be placed in Mr. Schimenz’s mailbox in the main office or you can email us at VocVoice@aol.com.







# Sophomore Shop Profiles

by Jeslenny Grullon

Most teachers have a student they consider the “best in class.” *Vocational Voice* asked teachers of CTE sophomore classes to recommend their best student to recognize them for their hard work.

Questions:

1. How did you become interested in this major?
2. What is the one thing you enjoy the most about your shop?
3. Are there ever times you wish you had chosen a different shop?
4. What was one of the most challenging things you’ve learned so far in your shop?
5. Is this something you see yourself doing after leaving Queens Voc? If not, what are you interested in majoring in after Queens Voc?

**Tristan Ponce** - Plumbing - Mr. McCarthy

1. “I like using my hands, taking things apart and figuring out how to put them back together and how they work.”
2. “Mr. McCarthy is fun to work with; his lessons are never boring and they’re easy to comprehend.”
3. “No, because I’m not interested in any other shop class.”
4. “The hardest thing to learn was the threading.”
5. “I’m interested in pursuing this major as a career.”



**Denisse Flores** - Electrical Installation - Mr. Abreu



1. “I took it last year for exploratory and it fascinated me.”
2. “I feel like I’m in control of how to do my job and it’s a lot of fun to do.”
3. “No. EI may seem hard at times, but once you understand what you’re doing, it’s fun.”
4. “Nothing has been challenging because I enjoy doing everything.”
5. “I can see myself working in the union, in big electrical projects in Manhattan.”

**Freddy Flores** - Computer Technology - Mr. David

1. “Computers are interesting. It’s like your dealing with another person. This country runs on computers and if you don’t know about it you might as well give up.”
2. “I enjoyed the hands-on experience. Fixing the computers is fun. Troubleshooting interests me the most.”
3. “Yeah there are times, because sometimes I get bored, but in the end, I always learn something useful.”
4. “Installing software, it’s challenging because you can’t mess up with the instructions.”
5. “For one, I do see myself fixing computers. With this shop it’ll help me because I’ll have the skills needed.”



**Fernanda Maria Dellacroce** Business - Mr. Mugan



1. “It’s my first year in this school, I originally wanted totake cosmo but there were no seats. I was offered business and as weeks went by it became more interesting.”
2. “The projects that are given, because it’s not only about having business skills. You can use your own personal skills and knowledge.”
3. “When it starts getting difficult, sometimes I wish I was in another shop, but when I finish a challenging task it proves to me how skilled I am.”
4. “The traveling project, which included researching hotel and all expenses to three different locations on three different dates. It was pretty challenging, but I was satisfied when I was finished.”
5. “It’s not ultimately what I want to pursue but it is something good to fall back on.”

**Qizhuo Li** - Graphic Arts - Mr. Garcia



1. “I always like to play with computers and I like to draw.”
2. “It’s a creative experience. You just get to customize the graphics the way you want.”
3. “No, because I enjoy learning about it.”
4. “Nothing, I find everything pretty simple.”
5. “Yeah, I see myself working with computers.”

**Ashley Colwell** - Cosmetology - Ms. Spallone

1. “I always liked doing hair since I was little.”
2. “I get to make people look nice.”
3. “When the teacher doesn’t let us do hands on activity.”
4. “Classic first choice, which is a type of up-do.”
5. “Yeah, I would like to own my own clinic someday.”



**Anthony Biondo** - Electronics -Mr. Raushan

1. “I get to learn about electronics and robots. It’s a great way to make money. You can create anything.”
2. “It’s a lot of math and I enjoy that.”
3. “No, because none of the other shops are interesting to me.”
4. “How to learn frequency and how to control the current flow of a circuit.”
5. “Yes, probably working in Microsoft.”



## Homemade Tongue Twisters

by Joel Pena

As kids, we liked tongue twisters even though they were difficult to say. Here are some home-grown tongue twisters related to Queens Voc. Repeat the tongue twisters three times, as quickly as possible.

- Ditzzy DeCarlo dissed Desmond.
- Schimenz shares shocking stories.
- Miss Mitchell missed Mister Morris.
- Caring Karen carries cats.
- Persuad pulls plump pears.
- Tigers tear Terry’s team.
- Carolina counters Carol’s catch.
- Raging roaches roam radiators.
- Ten teachers taught trig terribly.
- Newman knew the news was new.
- Talley takes tasty treats to teachers.
- Bohr burns boring books.
- Wilson’s wild ways won’t work with Wally.
- Stephanie simply said surprise.
- Tory took Tracy’s token.



# Reviews, Reviews, Reviews!

## Music

by Jinet Collado

### Beyonce *I Am...Sasha Fierce*

With the release of her third solo studio album, *I Am...Sasha Fierce*, Beyonce has really outdone herself. It's her first release since the 2006 Grammy-winning, multi-platinum selling *B-Day* album. *I Am...Sasha Fierce* consists of two CDs, one that features mostly ballads and the other one which has more dance tracks.

Sasha Fierce? That would be Beyonce's ego. Half the record, *I Am*, is about her, behind all the fame. But the other half of the record, *Sasha Fierce*, shows the fun, more aggressive, more outspoken side of Beyonce. This record doesn't feature any collaborations because it was meant to be all about Beyonce.

Beyonce has always had the ability to relate to her fans through her songs. With her number one song on the first CD, "If I Were a Boy," Beyonce has created the national anthem for all the girls who have had

their hearts broken and those who have been cheated on. The songs "Halo" and "Disappear" both have a soft rhythm with an upbeat tone. "Broken-Hearted Girl" goes out to all the girls who are tired of going through the same hardships with guys. "Smash into You" and "Satellites" have a soft tempo, but I find them to be pointless. The songs could have put me to sleep, with those horrible lyrics and slow tempo.

"Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" and "Radio" begin the second CD on a good note. While the beat is fast and upbeat, the songs would be trash without the lyrics. But they both have the ability to wake anyone up and want to dance. Although the lyrics aren't as good, the beat of the song "Diva" combined with Beyonce's strong vocals, make up for it. With an upbeat and high tempo, the song is sure to make you get up and dance. The songs "Ego" and "Scared of Being Lonely" have good beats, but wow, they're another waste of good space. I find no point to them at all. They're just so predictable.

*I Am...Sasha Fierce* has a lot of good hits as well as a couple

of songs that I feel shouldn't have been made because they seem pointless and have no rhythm to them. The rest of the songs were very moving. I could say they're the type of songs that every girl can relate to.

### Kanye West *808s & Heartbreak*

Tragedies are full of passion, and Kanye West proves this, after losing his mother over year ago. Donda West died from complications from plastic surgery and after Kanye's split from his fiancée, Alexis Phifer, in April 2007. Kanye was able to rise above all his complications with the help this album. The album *808s & Heartbreak* is a very classic Kanye West, only with a different format. He has created one of the most interesting pop albums I've heard in years. The "808s" refers to the Roland TR-808s drum machine, which is used in all of his songs on this album.

In "Welcome to Heartbreak," Kanye explains how he has wasted his time trying to get to the "good life," but then realized all the opportunities he missed out on. The beat to this song is

mostly made up of drums with a slight '80s pop beat to it. In "Heartless," Kanye expresses his feelings to his fiancée.

"Amazing," featuring Young Jeezy, comes in with another head-bobbing drum partnership with some piano in the background. In "Love Lockdown," the vocals sometimes get swallowed by the production, especially during the chorus, but overall, the songs repetitive lines illustrate Kanye's assertiveness about moving on. "Paranoid" sounds like a track you'd hear in the '80s. It's a track that producers nowadays would refer to as "cheesy." Yet it is here that West delivers some verses that sound more like rap side than singing. "Robocop" sounds like it was produced with a keyboard and violins. He keeps the '80s party music trend going with some of the drum effects in the background.

"See you in my Nightmare," featuring Lil Wayne, is one of my favorite tracks on the album. It brings the high level of energy you'd expect from a collaboration such as this. In this song, Kanye expresses his feelings to a woman who he doesn't love anymore. A

collaboration with two successful artists in popular urban music, this song is sure to become a hit. "Coldest Winter," also one of my favorites, shows Kanye with his clean, smooth vocals.

The loud tribal drums and are very similar to those in "Love Lockdown." Besides this being another of my favorite tracks, I feel like Kanye delivered his best in this song. "Pinocchio Story," the last song on the CD, is a live performance bonus track finale. The song sounds as if he made it up on the spot. He talks about the tale of a man who strived for dreams all his life, made it there, and now has regrets from the things he couldn't experience as a regular person. The song is very deep.

*808s & Heartbreak* is made up of many good songs. With collaborations featuring Young Jeezy and Lil Wayne, this record is very deep compared to his last albums. Kanye West really outdid himself with this one.



## GAMES

by Jean Carvajal

### Gears of War 2



Gears of War 2 is an Xbox 360 exclusive and the sequel to 2006 hit game Gears of War. Gears 2 story starts off six months after the end of the first game, where Marcus released the lightmass bomb underground to try to kill the all of locusts. The assault failed and the locusts came back with a device that can sink whole cities. Gears 2 is a war game which you start of as Sergeant Marcus Fenix, a Coalition of Ordered Government soldier, and leader of delta squad. In the story, Marcus will go to various locations to wipe out the locust, help his best friend Dom find his lost wife who went missing at the start of the war, and stop the locust from sinking Jacinto the

COGS' stronghold and the last standing city. Gears 2 is a really polished game thanks to the unreal engine 3, which lets the game have multiple enemies on screen at the same and still run the game smoothly without any glitches or abnormality. Where Gears 2 really shines is the online multiplayer, which has add 4 new game modes to its already solid multiplayer game choices. One of the surprisingly good modes is horde mode, where waves upon waves of locust attack the players and you try and survive all 50 waves through teamwork and strategy. Gears 2 is an awesome game with a good but extremely short story mode it is a fantastic multiplayer game that will give you hours and hours of replay value.

Rating 8.5/10

### Fable 2



Fable 2 is an open-world role playing game that is set in the world of Albion. In the beginning you choose between a young girl or boy hero to play as, but these really affect don't the story it is just one of the many choices that Fable 2 gives you. The game starts off with a big tragedy which leads you to find out you have the powers of a hero. The story in Fable is simple. You go around Albion doing quests to gain fame, doing odd jobs like being a blacksmith or being bartender to gain some extra cash, or starting a family. In the world of Fable 2, the hero has a lot of freedom. You can be the baddest person around and kill anyone without batting an eye, or be the saint that risks his or her life to save another. In Fable, the peoples Artificial Intelligence is really well-made, they react to your appearance, notice when you're doing something wrong, and interact with the game's hero. Fable allows you to level up in anyway you want. Want to be a better swordsman? Upgrade your strength. Get better at shooting? Upgrade your skill. Want to be a powerful wizard? Upgrade the source of your magic power. Fable 2 is a good game, but after the game ends, there's not that much to do and it feels like the developers could had done a lot more to add some replay value. Rating 7.4/10

## TV Shows

by Carlos Belliard

### Sex and the City

*Sex and the City* is a show about four females who live in New York City. They are very liberated and independent modern women of the 21st century. The star of the show is Carrie Bradshaw, the writer of a sex column. She uses this sex column to vent about her experiences with men and her past relationships. The four women of the show share a strong bond. They each have distinct personalities, and are educated and very successful women who can't seem to find the right match in the fast-pace city of New York. Though the characters seem to be living in a fantasy world many viewers enjoy the show because they wish to emulate Carrie's lifestyle. The show can be seen on TBS Monday through Friday at 11pm.

### Smallville

*Smallville* is a TV series based on the comic book character, Clark Kent/ Superman. The series takes place in the fictional town of Smallville, Kansas. Clark arrived to Smallville when his space shuttle crash landed on earth. The space shuttle's crash caused the death of his neighbors and was the start of strange events in Smallville. The

episodes focus on Clark's high school years and the different experiences he has with his friends, who do not know he has superpowers. In the series, Clark Kent has to battle evil while at the same time deal with the pressures of being a teenager. The life-threatening events that Clark faces make the show suspenseful and fun to watch. The show can be seen on the CW network on Thursday at 8pm.

### Entourage

*Entourage* is a show about four friends living in Hollywood. The show is loosely based on the real life experiences of Mark Wahlberg. The lead character of this show is Vincent Chase and the events that occur are centered on his experiences as an up-and-coming A-list actor. The show also focuses on the bonds Vincent shares with his childhood friends from Queens, who now live with him in Hollywood.

The show is about the many situations a group of celebrity friends deal with in Hollywood, but at its core it is about the relationship the characters have with one another. The situations in the show are very funny and unpredictable, which is why the show is so enjoyable. Entourage can be viewed on HBO on Sundays at 10pm.



# Horoscopes

by Jessica Delarosa

### Aries March 21-April 19

You may be a bit frustrated with the way certain situations have been going lately, but if you can just wait for another day or so, you should see things improve markedly. It might be hard to wait it out, but it’s worth it.

### Leo July 23-August 22

If there’s a school project or a personal issue frustrating you, take a step back and look at it with fresh eyes or ask a friend for help. That kind of teamwork should do right by you.

### Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If your schedule isn’t totally full today, you need to fill it up. Boredom is really bad for you right now, but it shouldn’t be too hard for you to find new ways to pass the time.

### Taurus April 20-May 20

You just don’t know what to do next, but this isn’t the time to make snap decisions, no matter what kind of pressure you may be facing.

### Gemini May 21-June 21

Work that social energy and make sure you have a full calendar. It’s pretty easy for you to get out there and meet new people anyway, because your personal energy is so compelling.

### Cancer June 22-July 22

If you’re just a bit nicer than usual you can get a lot further with most people in your life. You may need to start over with one of them.

### Virgo August 23–Sept. 22

More than most people, you are comfortable with the small details that make up your work and home chores. You need to rethink them a little bit, or at least focus on one you never really think about.

### Libra Sept.23–October 22

It’s time to speak the whole truth or at least as far as it relates to that one big issue you’re dealing with. People are surprisingly open to what you have to say, so they will hear you out.

### Scorpio Oct. 23-Nov. 21

This is a good time to talk your parents into spending money for your benefit. You can’t get everything you want but you might be surprised by what’s possible right now.

### Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your love life gets a little boost today, whether it needs one or not. You’re likely to meet someone new and intriguing.

### Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

You’re not seeing things as you should and that may be troubling, but it’s all good in the long run. Realize that some of these events aren’t fully real and you should be able to make it through just fine.

### Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You need to deal with some weirdness with your family, but your unique way of seeing things helps put it all in perspective. In fact, you may help resolve it all just by staying true to yourself.

# Musical Talents

by Joel Pena

Musical talent and self-expression tend to go together. Queens Voc students Jefferson Zamora, a guitar player, Kelsey Garcia, a singer and piano player, and Guadalupe Victoria, a cello player, have all developed musical talent.



Jefferson Zamora has been playing the guitar for about two

years. At first, playing the guitar wasn’t his forte, but he has recently taken a liking for it. Jefferson first decided to play the guitar when visiting his cousins in Ecuador. He was inspired when he heard his cousins play the guitar. “This year, I have gotten more into depth with playing the guitar,” said Jefferson.

Jefferson has been playing guitar in his church, Monte Moriah, to increase his skill. His church friends were very helpful because they gave Jefferson lessons. Jefferson played the guitar in front of an audience, at his church, for the first time in November. “I felt nervous but it was an experience that I would never take back,” he said. Jefferson still practices the guitar and with his church friends during his free time.

Many people don’t always know they want to do in life but



in Kelsey Garcia case, it’s different. Kelsey has been singing since she was two years old and has been playing the piano since she was ten. “I have always been musically inclined and the piano seemed classy,” said Kelsey. Although Kelsey has taken classes with a private instructor in Astoria, she didn’t have anyone to guide her.

Kelsey first performed in front of a crowd of people, in the eighth grade, for a mini-competition. She came in third place. “I felt pretty accomplished because I never relied on anyone else,” Kelsey said. She looks up to

Can you figure out who these teachers are?

#### Across

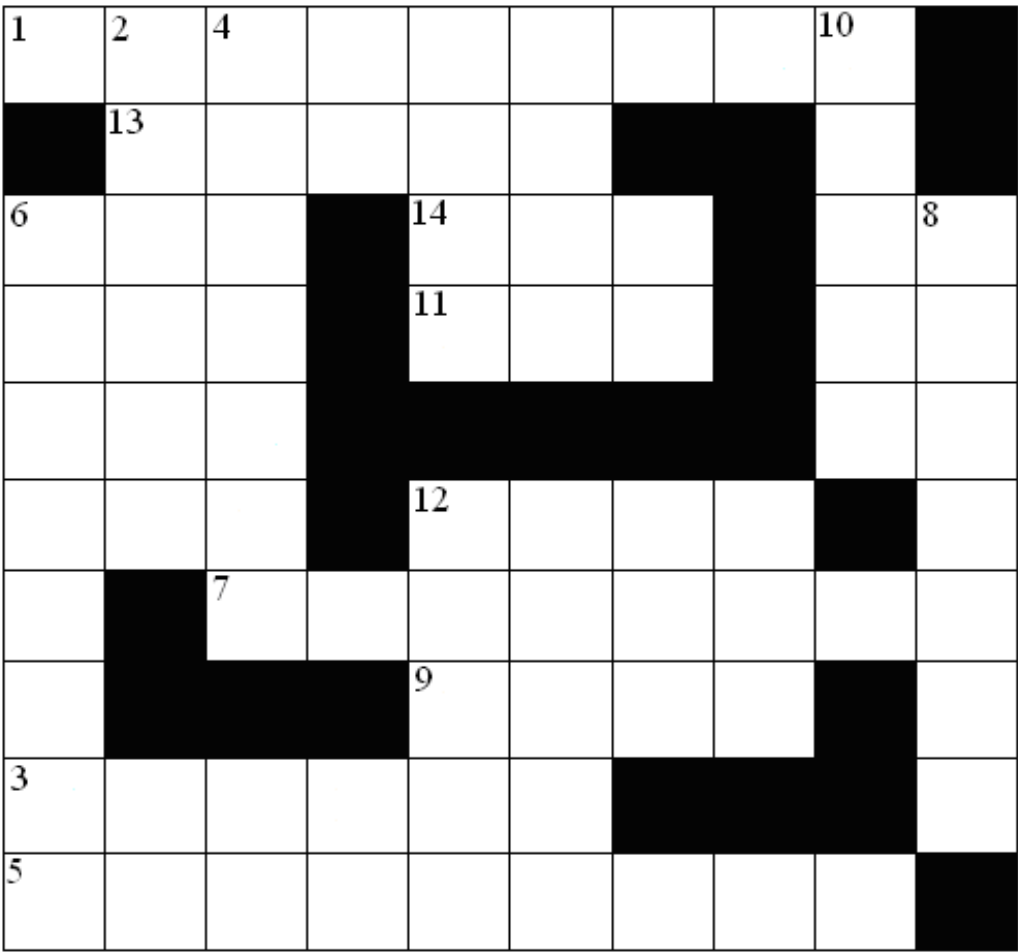
- 1) Physics
- 3) College Now
- 5) Wrestling
- 7) U.S. History
- 9) SO
- 11) Electronics
- 13) Librarian
- 14) Chemistry

#### Down

- 2) Accounting
- 4) Financial Literacy
- 6) Journalism
- 8) EI
- 10) Health
- 12) Web Design

# Crossword

by Beatriz Gonon



Elton John and Alicia Keys because they sang and played the piano at the same time, and that, she says, is very difficult. Kelsey sings and plays the piano for a couple of hours, three or four days a week.

Coming from a family full of musical talent, it wasn’t very difficult for Guadalupe Victoria to find her gift. She started playing the cello five years ago. “I wanted to take up an instrument because my sister and brother



both played instruments,” Guadalupe said. Her sister played the recorder and violin for eight years and her brother played the flute and the recorder

for three years. Guadalupe was also inspired by her sixth grade orchestra teacher named Mr. McDonhal. In his class, she played songs for her schools concert and graduation. One of her favorite songs to play was “Can Can” because she found it challenging.

Everything seemed fun for Guadalupe but, she said “My first experience playing in front of a crowd was horrible because I skipped a couple of notes.” Not doing well her first time challenged her to do better. Guadalupe showed more than talent, she showed passion for her instrument.

Do you have a talent you’d like to share with the Queens Voc community? Contact us at VocVoice@aol.com



# Teachers Tell us *Their* Embarrassing Moments

by Rafael De Oleo

The *Voc Voice* has occasionally asked students to tell us their most embarrassing moments. This time, we took a chance and asked some of our teachers for theirs.

Check out the funny stuff they told us!

**Ms. Green**

“I was about 19 years old and I was with some friends and we went to Dunkin Donuts. I walked into Dunkin Donuts to get coffee for me and my friends. I walked out and got in the car, but once I was inside, I hear ‘excuse me.’ It was only then that I realized I was in the wrong car. My friends started honking and laughing at me, the guy also laughed and said, ‘You can stay.’ I exited the car, and took the walk of shame back to my friend’s car.”

**Ms. DeCarlo**

“I was running late to work so I decided to drive to school, instead of the usual train ride. Once the day was over, Ms. Green and Ms. Wilson were in a rush to catch the express Long Island Railroad. We got on the 7 train, exited at 61st Street Woodside, and got on the Long Island Railroad. I took the train all the way to Jamaica. It was only then that I realized that I had driven to school. I called Ms. Green and Ms. Wilson, but they just laughed at me.”

**Mr. Garcia**

“When I was in my later years of elementary school, I went on a class trip to a courtroom. I was scheduled to speak about wealthy people. Instead of saying ‘wealthy’, I said ‘rich,’ but the problem was that I couldn’t pronounce ‘rich’ correctly; it kept on coming out as ‘reach.’ The judge made me stand up and repeat the word ‘rich’ about ten times until I could pronounce it correctly. To this day I choose to say the word ‘wealthy’ over ‘rich’ to save me from further embarrassment.”

## Places to Visit

### Check out these NYC attractions

by Sasha Almanzar

From its important sculptures and neighborhoods to its very unique stores, New York City is full of attractions. Finding somewhere to go or something to see isn’t hard.

Little Italy, located in Manhattan, is a neighborhood for those who want to experience Italian heritage. The neighborhood is enveloped by the scent of Italian cuisine, with so many restaurants, it would be hard for it not to. Cha Cha’s

**Ms. Burg**

“I was a teacher at Jane Addams High School during the mid ‘90s. I was walking down the hall when I fell on my face. I was very sad and I wanted to cry. Despite my embarrassing and possibly dangerous fall, no student or colleague helped me up, but I can laugh about it now.”

**Mr. Stefanidis**

“When I was in third grade, I had a substitute teacher for a day. The teacher ripped a note out my friend’s hand and read it out loud because students were giving her a hard time. I immediately started crying because in the letter I expressed how strong my feelings were for a girl in the class. I denied ever writing the letter. When my sister picked me up from school I ran to her, before my friends got to ask her about the situation, and I told her to cover for me. My sister bailed me out and said she forged the letter. To this day I am still friends with the girl the letter was about and, in fact, she lives a block away from me.”

**Mr. Zambrotta**

“I was in my sophomore year in high school and it was the first dance of the school year. I was break dancing and there was a huge crowd surrounding me. I suddenly hit my elbow into my stomach awkwardly as I was dancing and threw up. I’m sure that eating almost 100 Oreos didn’t help. There wasn’t much vomit, but enough to make me embarrassed.”

**Mr. Mugan**

“I was running late to an interview for a job that I really wanted. When I arrived at the meeting, a large group of interviewers were surrounding me in a room. I sat down and crossed my legs. It was only then that I realized that I had stepped in dog waste. I never got the job, and I’m sure stepping in the dog poo didn’t help my chances.”

## Places to Visit

### Check out these NYC attractions

in Bocca Al Lupo is a restaurant that offers traditional Italian food for moderate prices. At the end of September, the neighborhood hosts the San Gennaro Festival, which celebrates the Patron Saint of Naples. Food vendors are opened, selling foods such as pepper and sausage sandwiches, zeppoles, and gelatos. Carnival games and rides also attract tourists.

Chinatown is located on the lower east side of Manhattan. The streets of Chinatown are great for shopping. There are

# QV Word Search

by Maria Moreno

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

Virtual Enterprise  
Business  
Electronics  
Electrical Installation  
Exploratory  
Cosmetology  
Computer Tech  
Plumbing  
Handball  
Volleyball  
Juniors

FBLA  
Leadership  
Yearbook  
Robotics  
College Now  
Chess  
LEARN  
Mouse Squad  
Wrestling  
Seniors  
Freshmen

SPARK  
Mock Trial  
VICA  
Cosmo clinic  
Basketball  
Baseball  
Bowling  
Soccer  
Softball  
Sophomores

fabulous stores for buying Asian groceries, goods that make great souvenirs, and even the sometimes stinky seafood markets are worth a look. When you get hungry, there are many options for delicious, affordable food representing a wide variety of Chinese cuisines, including restaurants specializing in Cantonese cuisine, congee, and seafood.

The Skyscraper Museum is one of many museums located in Manhattan. It includes exhibitions, programs, and publications. The museum describes these tall buildings as objects of design, products of technology, sites of construction, investments in real estate, and places of work and residence. Museum hours are 12pm - 6pm, Wednesdays through Sundays. General admission is \$5, \$2.50 for students and seniors.

New York City with the M&M and Hershey stores, also pleases chocolate fanatics. Both stores are located in Times Square. The M&M store offers three floors full of M&M items. The first floor is mainly dedicated to key chains and apparel. The second floor has a wide variety

of M&M chocolates. The third floor has picture frames, napkins, souvenirs, necklaces, charm bracelets, and many other M&M related items. The Hershey store is much smaller, but like the M&M store, it also has a variety of chocolate and items.

Living in New York City has its benefits. We are able to experience and visit all these important and unique places. It sure is a treat!

## Riddles & Jokes

compiled by  
Christopher Gomez

**Why did the little boy go to bed with a ruler?**

He wanted to see how long he would sleep.

**What did the digital clock say to the grandfather clock?**

“Look, Grandpa. no hands!”

**Look at me. I can bring a smile to your face, a tear to your eye, or a thought to your mind. But, I can’t be seen. What am I?**

A memory

**There is an ancient invention still used in some parts of the world today that allows people to see through walls. What is it?**

A window.

**Why did the fish blush?**  
Because it saw the ocean’s bottom.

**How many seconds are in a year?**

There are 12 seconds in a year. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd...

**What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?**  
Frost-bite!

**Henry was out walking one day. He met his father-in-law’s only daughter’s mother-in-law. What did Henry call her?**  
He called her Mom!

**A lady went to bed and turned out all the lights. Later she awoke and heard a crash, and instantly she died of shock. What kind of house did she live in?**  
A lighthouse!!!

**Have a good riddle or joke? Email it to VocVoice@aol.com**



# Freshmen's First Impressions

by Maria C. Moreno

For many freshmen, the beginning of high school can range from tough and scary to exciting and fun. At Queens Voc, the freshmen are just beginning to experience high school life. We asked some freshmen about their impressions of Queens Voc.

The questions:

1. What was your first impression of the school?
2. How did you feel the first day of school?
3. Do you believe you made the right choice coming here? Explain.
4. What are your opinions of the teachers and students in school?
5. What were your expectations of the school? Were they right or wrong?
6. What do you plan to major in? Why?



**Radison Moronta**

1. "I thought Queens Voc was good. I knew a lot of people who came to the school as well and some of them recommended the school to me."
2. "I felt OK. I saw a lot of people I knew so it wasn't that bad. The day went by quick so I thought it was good."
3. "Yes, because I came to the school for computer technology and baseball and that is the shop I am currently taking. I am also on the varsity baseball team."
4. "The teachers are good and I get along with almost everybody."
5. "My expectations were right."
6. "In computer technology because it's my 'Plan B' if I don't continue to play baseball. It is also what I am interested in the most out of all the shops."



**Michelle Gonzalez**

1. "My first impression of the school was that it was very clean and I thought it looked very pretty."
2. "I was very nervous on my way to school. I was also excited to meet new people."
3. "Yes, I enjoy being at Queens Voc. I have met a lot of people and good teachers. I also love my new classes."

4. "The teachers teach really well. The students behave well and are nice."

5. "Yes, they were right because the school has what I need in order for me graduate and have a successful future if I work hard enough."

6. I plan to major in computer technology because I am interested in working with computers to see if I like it enough for me to choose it as a career later on."



**Diony Perez**

1. "My first impression of the school was that it was big and nice."
2. "I felt lost and confused because I'm one of the smallest students in the school."
3. "I think I did make the right choice because this school has a lot to offer me."
4. "The teachers are nice and the students are funny and loud."
5. "My expectations were right because I expected the teachers to be nice and they are."
6. "I plan to major in business because I want to own my own business one day."



**Yahirt Steven Artunduaga**

1. "My first impression was that I knew the year was going to be fun."
2. "I felt very nervous because I didn't know a lot of people."

3. "I think I made the right choice because I plan to major electrical installation in the future."

4. "I thought the teachers were cool but they really aren't. The students are really annoying."

5. "My expectations were right because I expected there to be a lot of girls and I was right."

6. "I plan to major in electrical installation because it looks challenging."



**Jamel Delacruz**

1. "My first impression was that the girls were beautiful."
2. "I felt anxious the first day of school."
3. "Yes, because I've always wanted to do electrical installation and the school has it."
4. "The teachers are cool but some classes are really boring. The students are nice."
5. "Yes, because the girls are what I expected, they're gorgeous and very nice. Also, the work isn't hard, it's okay. The school is great."
6. "I want to major in electrical installation because I have a huge interest in hands-on work."



**Dayna Brito**

1. "My first impression was that there were a lot of cute boys."
2. "I felt extremely shy because I didn't know anyone."
3. "Yes, I like this school. I met many people and made a lot of friends."
4. "Some teachers are strict and others are looser. Either way I get along with the teachers and students."
5. "My expectations were right because I expected the school to have nice staff and students, and it did. I liked the school, teachers, and even the students."

6. "I plan to major in cosmetology because I really like the program. I enjoy every class and have fun learning about how to treat clients and become professional."



**Dariana Fana**

1. "I thought the school was small."
2. "I felt really good. I felt like a new person."
3. "Yes, I think I made the right choice because by going to this school, I see a successful future."
4. "The teachers are very nice. Some students are nice, others are mean and fake."
5. "They were right because I expected Queens Voc to be a calm and safe school and it is. I feel comfortable here and I have no problems."
6. "I plan to major in cosmetology because I think I could one

day become a professional hair stylist."



**Emely Diaz**

1. "I thought the school was a safe place."
2. "I felt welcomed by students and teachers."
3. "Yes, because I was looking for a school that offered what I liked and Queens Voc has it all."
4. "The teachers are really attentive. The students are respectful."
5. "My expectations of the school were right because Queens Voc turned out to have a safe environment just like I expected it to have."
6. "I want to major in cosmetology because it is a profession that runs in the family and I love every thing about cosmetology."

## More Weird Facts

compiled by Syeda Ali

The rat has been called the world's most destructive mammal - other than man.

Rats destroy an estimated 1/3 of the world's food supply each year.

A rat can fall from a five-story building without having an injury.

Ninety-nine percent of all animal species that ever lived on earth are now extinct.

People, on average, eat eight spiders in their sleep in their whole lifetime.

Every year, you eat approximately four bugs in your sleep.

A chicken that just lost its head can run the length of a football field before dropping dead.

Hitler was voted *Time Magazine's* man of the year in 1938.

Vikings, after killing their enemies, used their skulls as drinking vessels.

Chewing gum has rubber as an ingredient.

In 1825, the first toilet was installed in the White House.

Turtles can breathe through their butts.

You share your birthday with at least 9 million other people in the world.

In 2005, the U.S. government spent on average over \$20,000 for each household.

In England, the speaker of the house is not allowed to speak.

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient in waking you up in the morning.

Check out these websites for more interesting, strange, weird, and amazing "facts":

randomfunfacts.com  
bigsiteofamazingfacts.com  
funfunnyfacts.com  
factsmonk.com  
factsville.com



# Sounds like a Plan!

## Students discuss short and long term goals

by Jessica Delarosa

Throughout the years students come into Queens Voc with a set of goals they want to accomplish.

1. What is one of the goals you plan on working on this year?
2. How do you plan on achieving this goal?
3. Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

**Cynthia Rojas- Senior**

“One of my goals is to improve my grades and make it into the Honor Society.”  
“I plan on working on this goal by making it to class on time, doing my work, passing my tests, and working hard in general.”  
“I see myself as a graduate from college, with an internship in my business field.”

**Rosario Castillo-Junior**

“One of the goals I plan on accomplishing this year is to pass all my classes.”  
“I plan on achieving this goal by being more responsible and dedicating more time to my studies.”  
“I see myself in college and working a part time job.”

**Erwin Gonzalez-Senior**

“The goal I want to work on this year is to raise my average to the 80s.”  
“In order to accomplish this goal, I need to make it to class on time, behaving in all my classes, and doing all my homework.”  
“In five years I want to be in college working very hard and majoring in engineering.”

**Esteban Soler- Sophomore**

“In the upcoming year I want to go far in this baseball season and make it to the playoffs, and win a lot of games.”  
“I feel as a team we can accomplish this by working together, I want the rookies to feel comfortable around the veterans.”  
“In five years I see myself in college majoring in computer technology and playing college baseball.”

**Michael Corona- Junior**

“I want to raise my average into the high 90s,”  
“In order to accomplish this I have to work hard, hand in my work on time, and by passing all my test.”  
“I see myself in college and married with Jinet Collado.”

**Joel Polonia- Freshman**

“This year I want to pay attention in class to pass my June Regents.”  
“I plan on achieving this goal by doing anything that is necessary, such as studying and taking Regents prep classes.”  
“I see myself in college with good grades, and working in a well-paying job.”

**Bryan Fernandez- Sophomore**

“This year I want to improve my grades so I can advance to the next grade.”  
“I feel I can accomplish this goal by not cutting.”  
“In five years I see myself in college and working as an electrician.”

**Shanley Porras- Junior**

“I want to pass all my classes with good grades.”  
“I can achieve this goal by studying and doing my work.”

“In five years I see myself in college, and owning a beauty salon.”

**Daniel Corona- Freshman**

“One of my goals this year is to stay on task in school and make sure I better myself in baseball.”  
“I plan to achieve this by working hard and making sure I don’t lose sight of what I want.”  
“In the next five years I see myself out of high school and into my freshman year of college.”

**Wendi Fernandez- Senior**

“One of the goals this year is to graduate with my endorsed diploma.”  
“I plan on achieving this goal by passing all my classes and meeting all the requirements.”  
“ In five years I see myself in a career in visual display, which is the major I plan on taking in college.”

# Advice Column

by Dharvin Govindeisami

**Problem:** My friends are a big part of my life, but they are trying to change me into a person I’m not. I always stay focused and try my best in school, but they always encourage me to cut school and hang out with them.

**Advice:** You shouldn’t consider these people your friends. They will only hold you back from your goals; they’re messing up their lives and taking you with them. You can’t blame your friends for cutting, however, because you willfully choose to walk out of the building with them. You have to choose between your “friends” and your goals. Be smart, choose your goals.

**Problem:** I love a girl and would do anything for her, however she doesn’t like me. She only considered me a friend. We used to be best of friends, but I had to tell her that I loved her

because it hurt me everyday to know that we were only friends. Now, she has new friends and we don’t talk anymore, but it hurts even more. I’m scared to go and talk to her because I don’t know if she still wants to be my friend. I’d rather her to be my friend than nothing at all because she’s special and unique and my feelings for her will never change. However, I need to approach her and don’t know how to. Do you have any suggestions?

**Advice:** Just approach her in a regular manner, because you shouldn’t be trying to impress her. If she is truly your friend she’ll forgive you for making her feel uncormfortable. You must also know if you do become her friend again, that’s all you will ever be. She has already told you that. I do agree with you. If this person is really special to you, it would be better for both of you to be friends than not have a relationship at all.

# What do our Students Know?

by Lorena Bonilla

If there’s one thing that we know about Queens Voc students is that they should spend more time reading books. Here are a series of questions putting their knowledge to the test.

Questions & Correct Answers  
1. How many Presidents have there been in the United States? [Incl. the president-elect]: **44**  
2. What is the name of the thing that hangs in the back of your throat? **Uvula**  
3. What are the seven continents? **Africa, Asia, Antarctica, Australia, Europe, North America, South America**  
4. What is the New York State animal? **Beaver**  
5. What large body of water is to the west of India? **The Arabian Sea**

Students’ Answers  
Wrong answers are italicized.

**Darlene Fernandez**

1. 36
2. *Throat ball*
3. Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Australia, Africa
4. *Some type of bird*
5. *Indian Ocean*

**Brian Alvarez**

1. 44
2. *The bell*
3. Antarctica, Asia, North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Australia
4. Beaver
5. *Mediterranean Sea*

**Cynthia Rojas**

1. 44
2. *Uvila*
3. North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Australia, Antarctica, Asia
4. Beaver
5. *Mississippi River*
- Kevin Arriola
1. 52
2. *Hanging piece of skin*
3. North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Australia, Antarctica, Asia
4. *Eagle*
5. Arabian Sea

**Dariana Fana**

1. 44
2. *Adams Apple*
3. North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Antarctica, Australia, Africa
4. *Eagle*
5. *Mississippi River*

**Zuleyma Pena**

1. 44
2. *Adams Apple*
3. North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Antarctica, Australia, Africa
4. *Eagle*
5. *Nile River*

**Rosario Castillo**

1. 49
2. Uvula
3. North America, South America, Australia, Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia
4. Beaver
5. Arabian Sea

**Amanda Vasquez**

1. 48
2. *Adams Apple*

**Hector Roche**

1. 52
2. *Punching bag*
3. Australia, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Europe, Antarctica
4. *Elephant*
5. Arabian Sea

**Michael Rivas**

1. 44
2. *Urithera*
3. Antarctica, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe
4. *Blue Jay*
5. Arabian Sea

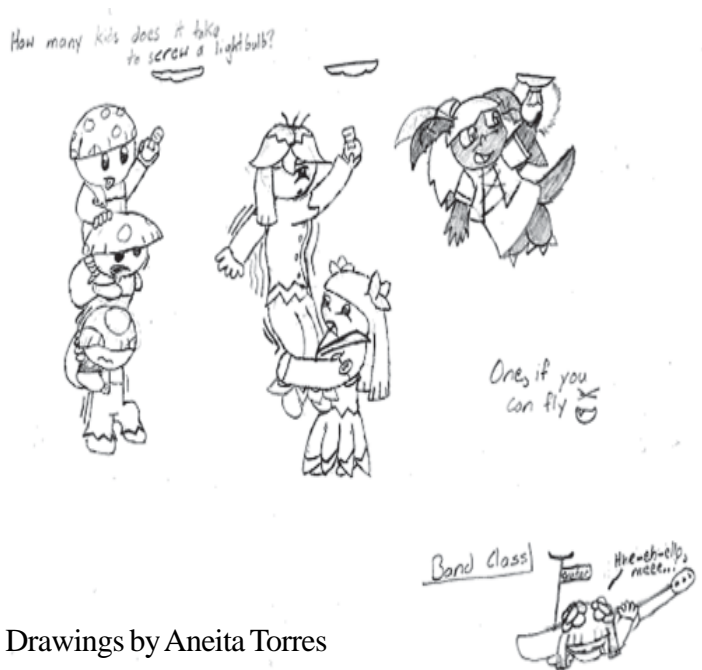
**Rossy Gil**

1. 44
2. *Hanging thing*
3. Africa, Asia, Europe, Antarctica, North America, South America, Australia
4. *Bear*
5. *Red Sea*

**Michael Corona**

1. 42
2. Uvula
3. Antarctica, Africa, North America, South America, Asia, Europe, Australia
4. Beaver
5. Arabian Sea

Maybe you can be next!



Drawings by Aneita Torres



# Book Reviews

by Lorena Bonilla

It seems as though English literature is dominated by British and American writers. However, there is a wealth of excellent novels written in English by people from other countries. These three novels are superb examples of this.

## A Thousand Splendid Suns

Expectations were high for Khaled Hosseini’s second novel due to the success of his outstanding debut, *The Kite Runner*. Although *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is an excellent piece of literature, it falls short of these expectations.

Like *The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is set in Afghanistan and vividly portrays the violence that has enveloped the country. The story is about two women; Mariam and Laila, and their marriage to a despicable man, Rasheed. Both women face various hardships that eventually bond them.

The violence and suppression brought forth by the Taliban serve as the major subplot in the novel. Hosseini does an excellent job of depicting the horrors of constant warfare, instilling in the reader a sense of dread and endless worry.

The story is, at times, humorous. For the most part though, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* reads like a melodramatic soap-opera. Although the sentimentality of the novel can become annoying, Hosseini uses it masterfully, as this book will inspire tears in even the most hardened individuals.

Hosseini’s writing style is simple and uncomplicated and should be sufficiently easy to read, perhaps adding to the popularity of his first novel amongst the high school crowd. People will not have to sit down with a dictionary in order to understand this book. However, at times, Hosseini’s simplistic syntax can become rather dull and boring, especially for readers that enjoy challenging novels.

The biggest flaw that plagues *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is that it is not as good as *The Kite Runner*, and the comparison between the two is inevitable. While *The Kite Runner* starts off quickly and keeps a steady pace throughout, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* gets off to a very slow start that can disillusion many readers. It is not until the middle of the novel that the pace picks up. Despite this minor flaw, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

is an excellent novel, a real page-turner.

## White Tiger

Aravid Adiga’s debut novel, the Man Booker Prize winning *White Tiger* is superb. The novel is a witty, humorous and dark tale of the corruption in India and how one man, Balram Halwai, uses it to get ahead.

Balram is a despicable character. He disrespects his elders and cares only for himself. He is a corrupt and egotistical self-proclaimed entrepreneur. He is an opportunistic thief and murderer. He is, however, an unforgettable protagonist. Any reader will fall in love with Balram and this is a true testament to Adiga’s marvelous character development and story-telling ability.

Balram’s life story is unbelievable. He comes from “the Darkness,” the impoverished part of India that is at times forgotten and neglected. He is not educated. Eventually, he becomes a driver for the son of a wealthy and corrupt landowner and that is where the story truly picks up. Balram steals and kills his way to success and the reader can’t help but cheer his hellish tactics.

The novel takes place over seven nights, during which Balram writes a letter to a Chinese premier that will be visiting India. The goal of this letter is to inform the premier of the corruption in India. This is also the goal of the novel.

Adiga’s portrayal of India is gritty and contradicts the colorful and exotic visages of Bollywood movies as well as the stereotypical image of India as a land of Yoga and meditation. The novel does an excellent job of depicting a side of India that is often forgotten.

Adiga is an excellent and talented writer. His writing style is humorous and very entertaining. However, *White Tiger* is a black comedy and some people may not understand or like it. Of course, this doesn’t mean that people shouldn’t give it a try.

## Miguel Street

*Miguel Street* by the Nobel Prize winning V.S. Naipaul is an excellent novel set in the author’s homeland, Trinidad and Tobago, during and after World War II. The novel is narrated by an unnamed character and takes place in or around Miguel Street, a street in Port-of-Spain, the capital of Trinidad.

Every chapter in *Miguel Street* is about a different character, all of whom are residents of Miguel Street. Each character has an interesting story, some funny, others rather sad. There is Big Although the novel does not have a single plot, its most important subplot

# Students’ Goals

by Karolina Gorna

1. What do you want to accomplish before you finish high school?
2. What do you wish to accomplish by the age of 30?

Justin Rodriguez  
Age 17, Senior



1. I want to get my certification for fiber optics, and decide what I want to do in life.
2. By the age of 30 I would want to have established a family and a house. I’m still unsure of what I want.

Paul Cabral  
Age 18, Senior



1. I would want my grades to be higher, and get good job. I don’t want to work at McDonald’s.
2. I haven’t thought about that, but I want to have a wife, and kids.

Julissa Ballesteros  
Age 15, Sophomore



1. To become Salutatorian, and graduate with an advanced Regents diploma. I want to get a scholarship for law school.
2. Go skydiving, travel to Greece, have kids and be married.

What are *your* goals?

is about the hope to get ahead that every character possesses. In the end, only the unnamed narrator manages to leave Miguel Street and Trinidad in hopes of a better life. The novel is rather bleak and depressing as most characters continue on

Victoria Lindner  
Age 17, Junior



1. Get my cosmetology license. I would like to also join the basketball team, and become captain of the softball team.
2. To have my own salon, go skydiving and bungee jumping. I want to be married, and have kids.

Michele Bravo  
Age 15, Sophomore



1. Get a scholarship in electrical installation for college.
2. I would want to get a really good job and make lots of money.

Remi Diaz  
Age 14, Freshman



1. I would like to meet my high school sweetheart. I want to continue to do well in cosmetology and become certified. I want to have been in a few commercials before I finish high school.
2. I would like to have two kids, be married, and have a house. I want to be in two movies, and be very wealthy.

with their melancholy lives. However, it is also very funny and witty.

Naipaul’s writing style is very interesting and peculiar. His Trinidadian English seeps through the pages. It is as though one were actually

Rodney Harris  
Age 16, Junior



1. Be certified in electronics.
2. I want to become a successful musician and electrician.

Elixandria Brienza  
Age 14, Freshman



1. Become captain of the basketball team. I want to find a mini me.
2. I want to be married, and have a good job.

# Weird Facts

by Maria C. Moreno

1. Butterflies taste with their feet.
2. Cockroaches can live several weeks with there head cut off and eventually die of starvation.
3. Flamingos are pink because they eat shrimp.
4. A hummingbird weighs less than a penny.
5. A snail breathes though its feet
6. Shrimp can only swim backwards.
7. No word in the English language rhymes with month.
8. When the moon is directly over you, you weigh less.
9. A one-minute kiss burns 26 calories.
10. A pigeon’s feathers are heavier than its bones.
11. One brow wrinkle is the result of 200,000 frowns.
12. In Miami, it is forbidden to imitate an animal.

Note: While strange facts.com claims this information is true, Voc Voice makes no representation as to the accuracy of these “facts.”


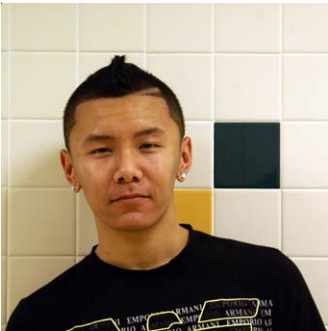




listening to a Trinidadian person speak. This makes for a very fun read.

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini is available in the school library. *White Tiger* by Aravid Adiga and *Miguel Street* by V.S. Naipaul, are not.



# SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Jessica Delarosa

<div>Karolina Gorna</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 17 Team: Girls’ Varsity Basketball Position: Shooting Guard Years on Team: 4</p><p>”Karolina is a great captain and a great team player. She’s always there to help when you need her. She motivates the team to perform to the best of their abilities.” -Samantha Lupo</p><p>”A four-year veteran and a three-year captain. She’s a leader of the team. The best shooter I’ve ever coached and an outstanding defender. She has a real understanding of the game.” - Mr. Devaux</p></div>	<div>Mingmar Lama</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 17 Team: Boys’ Var. Basketball Position: Point Guard Years on Team: 3</p><p>“Ming is a very smart player on the court. His passes are unbelievable. He will make a good point guard on this team and also big a big part of the team’s success.” -Christopher Delacruz</p><p>“He plays the game with high intensity.” -Mr. Maloney</p></div>	<div>Meghan Guzman</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 17 Team: Girls’ Varsity Basketball Position: Forward Years on Team: 2</p><p>“Meghan always has a unique way of keeping the team in high spirits. She’s always is encouraging the team to do better.” - Jamila Rodriguez</p><p>“One of the hardest working players on the team. I’m looking forward for her to be playing some valuable minutes this year.”- Mr. Devaux</p></div>	<div>Christopher Green</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 18 Team: Boys’ Var. Basketball Position: Point Guard Years on Team: 1</p><p>“Africa seems to be happy on the team, it seems like he’s been waiting a while for his time to shine. They’re giving him a chance to show us his skills and I hope he can make a change for the team.” -Ramon Gil</p><p>“He gives 100% effort all the time.” -Mr. Maloney</p></div>	<div>Ranjot Singh</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 17 Team: Boys’ Varsity Basketball Position: center/power forward Years on Team: 2</p><p>“Ranjot plays well at the center position, he helps out a lot by scoring and getting rebounds. The most surprising play he made was making a three pointer.” -Kareif McKoy</p><p>“His skills have improved every year he’s been on the team.” -Mr. Maloney</p></div>
<div>Joel Pichardo</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 17 Team: Boys’ Varsity Basketball Position: Center Years on Team: 2</p><p>“His height is an advantage for the team has and he grabs the rebound on the defensive ends.” -Christopher Suarez</p><p>“Joel should be getting his fair share of rebounds this year.” -Mr. Maloney</p></div>	<div>Jonathan Dempsey</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 17 Team: Boys’ Wrestling Weight Class: 145</p><p>”Dempsey is always training hard, as his wrestling partner, he never goes easy on me making me learn new skills. He’s always at practice and shows his dedication to the sport.”- Luis Hernandez</p><p>”Anyone who out-wrestles his opponent and makes him want to quit is a winner in my book.” -Mr. Zambrotta</p></div>	<div>Maxwell Ayisah</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 17 Team: Boys’ Wrestling Weight Class: 285</p><p>”Maxwell is always motivated; he pushes himself to the limit. He’s a strong fighter, and he is always there for the team.”- Max Maldonado</p><p>”Referred to as King Max, he puts forth a great deal of effort When he’s thinking about quitting, the team pushes him forward, he’s able to move forward and work to the best of his abilities and complete the exercises.”- Mr. Zambrotta</p></div>	<div>Beshion Bailey</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 18 Team: Boys’ Wrestling Weight Class: 171,189</p><p>”Beshion Bailey is a hard worker, a very motivational speaker, a good leader, and very fun to work with.” - Carlos Jimenez</p><p>”Has more energy than anybody on the team. Did anyone notice after he pinned his opponent in less than a minute he stood up and was ready to continue fighting. The smile that everyone sees in the hallways is the same smile I see after an hour and a half of workout.” -Mr. Zambrotta</p></div>	<div>Justin Rodriguez</div> <div></div> <div><p>Age: 17 Team: Boys’ Wrestling Team Weight Class:103</p><p>“Justin is often underestimated because of his height, but he’s dedicated to the sport and shows that he has athletic abilities.” -Dilpreet Singh</p><p>“He is currently my smallest wrestler and sometimes makes me wish I can weigh 103 pounds. Justin completed his first tournament and he walked right through people. Unfortunately, he’s in such a low weight class that he won’t get to beat up as many people as I know he could.” -Mr. Zambrotta</p></div>

## QV’s AD: Always on the Run

by David Beltran

Queens Voc is home to 12 sports teams, including a newly begun wrestling team. While coaches are in charge of managing teams, the athletic director must overlook all teams. Mr. Lerro has been the school’s athletic director for seven years. He says he became athletic director because he has always enjoyed sports. “Becoming athletic director was a logical extension of physical

education, and as a former coach, I understand the energy and commitment needed to build a successful team,” he said. Mr. Lerro said he hoped to add one team each year as athletic director and has successfully done so bringing Queens Voc the following teams: boys varsity soccer team, boys junior varsity basketball, boys junior varsity baseball, girls varsity basketball, co-ed wrestling

team, and the girls volleyball team. This year however, Mr. Lerro did not ask for a new team, instead he said he wanted to focus more on fundraising for the existing teams but will try to add a new team again next year. As athletic director, Mr. Lerro helps obtain teams for the school, is in charge of the defibrillators and code blue drills in the school, and assists coaches in determining student eligibility. He says he is, “stressed out every day but it

doesn’t last as long as it used to since he focuses on balance in his own life as a teacher, athletic director, and athlete.” Even after seven years as athletic director, Mr. Lerro says, “I must never lead myself into thinking ‘I have this job down’ because I must always be ready for a challenge.” Mr. Lerro said he recognizes that, “there would be no sports program without the constant enthusiasm, energy, good humor, and

commitment of the coaches and athletes.”



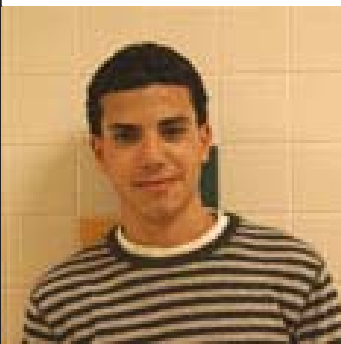
AD Lerro shows Tiger Pride.



# SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Jessica Delarosa

Ahmed Gawasthy



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

"Ahmed moves around well and knows how to pass the ball. He gives good directions and is always willing to help."  
- Edwin Guaman

"He loves the game and shows a lot of interest in it."  
-Mr. Ali

Gregory Paul



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

"Gregory kept the team happy and in high spirits. If he makes a mistake he always makes up for it, and he was secure in defense. Personally he was one of the friendliest and easiest to get along with when I joined the team."  
- Pablo Ayora

"He has a strong defense, and he has a lot of ability in everything he does in both the classroom and outside classroom."  
- Mr. Ali

Hector Roche



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

"He is the only person that I trusted with the ball that could've made something happen. It's sad that a captain like that is graduating. He will be missed a lot by me and the rest of the team."  
-Ozan Cetinkaya

"Hector has been the captain for the past 3 years. He has the greatest potential of all the soccer player since I've been a coach."  
-Mr. Ali

Ivana Nunez



Age: 17  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: A-Team  
Years on Team:4

"Ivana is the definition of a good captain; she was always there when the team needed her giving us advice and motivation to continue the game. Even when we lost, she kept the team motivated and in good spirits."  
-Jamila Rodriguez

"The moment she joined the bowling team I knew I would have a player to count on. If I ever had to describe what a team player is, it would be everything Ivana exhibits. I remember a match against LIC back in October. We were in a 'C' match that wouldn't determine who would win. A bowler from LIC was struggling with her first couple of frames and obviously concerned Ivana went out onto the floor and gave the young lady some tips, and worked with her for the rest of the match. The bowler made a significant improvement. That was without question, my proudest moments as a coach. If I could describe the bowler and person every coach should strive to have, it would be Ivana."  
-Mr. Garofano

Paul Cabral



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling  
Position: B-Team  
Years on Team: 2

"Paul is a great competitor who kept the team happy and came through when we needed him."  
- Michael Corona

"Paul has been a consistent bowler for two years. He's very hard working and helped with the younger bowlers."  
-Mr. Devaux

Maggie Rodriguez



Age: 17  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: A Team  
Years on Team: 4

"Maggie was a really good captain and was always willing to help out when the team needed her. She has a powerful throw that gained as many points."  
-Victoria Lindner

"Since her freshman year, Maggie was always a big part of our team's success. When she came onto the scene she made an immediate impact on the team. Watching her develop as a bowler was really something special. Losing her as a player will be quite tough, but having her for the four past seasons was great."  
-Mr. Garofano

Michael Ruiz



Age:17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer  
Position: Goalie  
Years on Team: 3

"He was effective and always had good timing. He's not someone you want to go against if you're on the opposite team. He's always alert and devoted to the team."  
-FreddyFortuny

"He is a great goalie; he gives his all out in the game."  
-Mr. Ali

Edwin Hill



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Position: Small Forward  
Years on Team: 4

"Edwin gives the team motivation; as a captain he sets a good example for future basketball players."  
-Francis Reyes

"He's a team leader on and off the basketball court. I expect big results from Edwin this year."  
-Mr. Maloney

Jefferson Zamora



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Wrestling  
Weight Class: 112

"He's equivalent to a little hurricane. He's dedicated to the sport and he's good in what he does."  
-Aaron Lorenzana

"For a wrestler that weighs 112 pounds, he's got more natural strength than most people in his weight class. Hopefully he would want to continue at 112 and not 119."  
-Mr. Zambrotta

Steven Abreu



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling  
Position: A-Team  
Years on Team: 3

"Steven was a hard working player. He always went out there and puts 110% into his bowling, he was a role model to the beginners."  
-Carlos Jimenez

"A three-year veteran that keeps improving every year. In his senior year he bowled on the A-team."  
-Mr. Devaux

Skyfree Ferguson



Age: 18  
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Position: Shooting Guard  
Years on Team: 4

"Floating above the defender is easy, Sky floats above the rim."  
-Ramon Gil

"It's light outs when it comes to shooting the basketball."  
-Mr. Maloney

## Fitness Tips

by Santiago Orellana

Teenagers tend to be concerned about the way they look. To change their looks, many start weight training, without any knowledge of what they are doing. Those who are serious about weight training may find the following suggestions helpful.

- 1.Set weight training goals before going to a gym. If you are trying to get bigger in size, try heavy weights and fewer repetitions. If your goal is to get muscle tone, light weights and more repetitions should do the trick.
- 2.Start lifting light weight, in order for your body to adjust, and then you can increase the weight gradually.
- 3.Workout between 4-5 days a week.
- 4.Rest is very critical when weight training. During the rest period, muscles recover from fatigue and tissue breakdown.

- 5.Drink between 9-10 cups of water a day
- 6.Weight training is not a reason to go on a diet. Working out will make you hungrier because your muscles need carbohydrates, protein, creatine and many other nutrients. Creatine is found in meats such as beef, pork, chicken, and fish.
- 7.Cardiovascular training is very important when trying to loss those extra pounds. Running, biking, swimming, and walking will help you to lose weight, too.

Check out:  
[www.bodybuilding.com](http://www.bodybuilding.com)  
[www.menshealth.com](http://www.menshealth.com)



# Inside Tigers Sports

## Boys’ Basketball

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For the team to make the playoffs they must finish the season with at least a .500 average. “We can still make the playoffs if we play together and everybody shows hustle,” said Coach Maloney.

Despite the recent turmoil that has shaken up the team, the players are still hoping to play well and continue to have fun. They sure have had their share of fun and most players and coaches seem to share their favorite memory of the season. “My favorite of the season was when we defeated Aviation during our season opener,” said the coach, adding that “it’s always good to beat your community competition.” Edwin Hill, captain and senior forward, said that his “favorite memory

of the season so far was when Jerrell dunked in the Aviation game and that we beat them at our first game.” Sky said that “In the first game, everything was flowing, and we felt like we couldn’t lose.”

He also appreciates the large support from the students and teachers at Queens Voc, “We’ve been having a good crowd and would love to have even more fan base support.”

The remaining regular season schedule is:

- Jan. 21-** Baccalureate School for Global Ed. (Home)
- Jan. 23-** Renaissance (Away)
- Feb. 2-** Info Tech HS (Home)
- Feb. 4-** Wagner HS (Home)
- Feb. 9-** HS for Construction (Away)
- Feb. 11-** Newcomers (Home)
- Feb. 13-** RFK (Away)

## JV Baseball

by Ivana Nunez

The JV baseball team is getting ready to start the season and the players are anticipating a great season this year, hoping to improve on last year’s record 5-5.

“I think this year’s team will be interesting. I have seen lots of students who are interested, who have been coming to meetings and practices,” said Mr. Cintron, the JV baseball coach. Mr. Cintron said his goal for this year is to help them develop both in skills and attitudes so that they can play together and fun.

The JV baseball team has three returning players Tomas Bueno, Christian Gutierrez, and Dennis Ortega. The rest of the students who are interested, Michele Bravo, Michael Flores, Joel Vargas, Brandon Lopez, Sal Isabella, Jonathan Lopez, Maximilian Manticof, Andre Castillo, Bryant Cartagena, Brian Vasquez, Geovanny Doy, Dillon Maynor, and Luis Gonzales are all rookies. Freshman Ricardo Ortega was recently brought up to play on varsity, which has lost three players in the last month.

“I think it is going to be an OK year because we don’t have the same experience as we had last year,” said Tomas Bueno, “we have new people now.” Tomas, a third baseman and pitcher, would like the team to make fewer errors and go undefeated. Christian Gutierrez also thinks “it’s going to be a good season because the

people that tried out are good hitters,” he said. Christian, who plays second base, said his goal for the team is to win as many games as they can and have fun as a team.

Mr. Cintron is not sure who will be on his roster, but he said he is accepting new players until the beginning of February to give students on winter teams a chance to tryout. The coach said that he has been having activities and meetings that many students have been



JV went 5-5 last season.

attending. Official on-field practices can begin March 1, but until then, the JV baseball team has been working out with the Conditioning Club to keep in shape.

The coach is planning to schedule some non-league games, but is waiting until the league schedule is posted on the PSAL website.

Find out more about Queens Voc sports teams: PSAL.org

## Wrestling

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counts. “The team supports one another so that the result may benefit everyone,” said Mr. Zambrotta. “I feel great as I’m a part of a team that pushes me to want to train to be better,” said Maxwell Ayisah. “The team’s philosophy is train harder to win easy,” said Mr. Zambrotta.

The team trains in the school cafeteria four days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Thursdays the team has an optional practice, where they go to Aviation to train with their wrestling team. Saturdays, the team members go to train with the 2007 city wrestling champions at Grandstreet Campus, Brooklyn. Some Queens Voc wrestlers train six days a week. The team trains with other schools to be exposed to various wrestling techniques.

The team training consists of a 20- minute cardio workout.

They complete stretches. Then the team works on core strength by doing workouts such as push-ups and buddy carries. The last part of practice is an hour of wrestling. “All the workouts have a direct relationship with wrestling,” said Mr. Zambrotta. Senior Justin Rodriguez said that “it’s good to train harder because it prepares you for the upcoming match; it gives you that drive to want to be better.” Aaron Lorenzana says he feels confident about the upcoming matches, the nerves are gone, and now he wants to wrestle.

“Wrestling is the most demanding sports, as no other sport is as concerned with athleticism, stamina, flexibility, and commitment,” said Mr. Zambrotta. He said he wants his athletes on the mats to be getting through it no matter how hard they may think the workout is, and off the mats to be in class, and be diligent to ensure that they’re utilizing their opportunity in education. Justin mentioned that the team is a family, as they support one other and have respect for each other.

“It’s about making children into adults,” said the coach. A stronger mentality causes a physically stronger athlete. He expects the “right attitude, right dress, right time, and right place” from the team.

## Girls Wrestle Too

by Santiago Orellana

Whoever said that wrestling is only for boys?

Queens Voc’s new wrestling team has two girls, junior Geraldine Leibot and freshman Remi Diaz. “I would love more girls on the wrestling team,” said Coach Zambrotta, who believes that every time a boy steps on the mat to wrestle a girl, it is a reality check for the boys.

“I would love to see girls beat up guys, but unfortunately wrestling is a weight sport, and it is unrealistic to see a large girl wrestle a smaller guy,” said the coach.

Geraldine said she “joined wrestling because it is an abstract sport and not a lot of girls are in it. It is a chance to prove that girls can engage in any sports just like guys.” “No Sensitive” is a saying Geraldine has in practice she wants the guys to be tough on her so she can learn from them. She said “she joined the wrestling team because it is different from other sports.” said Remi. She said practice is very tough and that Coach Zambrotta doesn’t treat anyone differently. Further, she said, “The guys on the team help me get aggressive.”

Remi had her first match on Monday, Dec. 1. “I was OD nervous and forgot everything I learned,” she said of the loss. At end of the hard fought match she was angry because of the loss but she enjoyed every second of it. A PSAL tournament on Sunday, Dec. 7 in Townsend Harris High School had only a hand-full of girl wrestlers. “In my first match I was nervous because it was my first time wrestling,” said Geraldine. After her first match, Geraldine was hyper, she said, and wanted to wrestle more. In her second match, Geraldine wrestled a boy and lost, but she was happy about the points she got for takedowns.

Wresting is not a boy-only sport, Remi and Geraldine are the only girls on the wrestling team, and Coach Zambrotta would love to have more girls on the team next year. “Take a chance because even though it’s an aggressive sport, you learn a lot from it,” said Remi. Both wrestlers agreed that more girls should join the team because it is fun. “Even though people stereotype wrestling as a guy sport, it is not that way at all,” said Remi.

## JV Basketball

“You have to look at it as a marathon, not a sprint.” - Coach Garofano

by Carlos Belliard

The Queens Voc junior varsity basketball team won their first game on Dec. 12, in the school gym, defeating Franklin K. Lane by one point. Stuart Cole was Queens Voc’s leading scorer with 17 points. “It was a competitive game and the score was tight all four quarters,” he said.

Since then, they haven’t done so well. The team’s record, as of Friday, Jan. 9, was 1-5.

The team is led by Mr. Garofano, in his third year as JV basketball coach.

According to Mr. Garofano, his team is made up of 9th and 10th graders getting a feel for the game, developing their skills, and preparing for a future on the varsity team. Mr. Garofano said his main goals for this year are to be competitive and to make sure that at the end of the season every player on the JV team is one step closer to the varsity team.

Tryouts for the JV basketball team were held on Nov. 7, 8, and 15. Twenty-five players tried out hoping for a spot on the team. They had to show what they were capable of on the court, said Coach Garofano. The coach said he saw a “good mix of talent during tryouts.” Kevin Sasuman, a sophomore, thought tryouts was hard and, he said, he also a lot of competition.

According to the PSAL website, www.psal.org, the team

consists of 15 players: freshmen Corbin Aldrige, Derek Atson, Sebastian Bula, Dominique McClaney, and Justin Soto; and sophomores Bryan Aldaz, Devante Brown, Tomas Bueno, Stuart Cole, Hugo Collado, Fredrick Jah, Kirk Palmer, Kurt Palmer, Kevin Rosario, and Kevin Sasuman.

Of these players, Stuart Cole is the only returning JV player. According to Coach Garofano, “Stuart Cole is going to be the center of everything they do.” Stuart said he believes that the team will pull together as one and turn the season around. Like Stuart, Coach Garofano expects the team to pull it together and to start playing competitive basketball.

The purpose of JV is to prepare students for varsity play. Four players on this year’s varsity team were on the JV team last year. Mr. Maloney, the varsity basketball coach, said that the four “understand the game well, but right now they are having trouble with the level of play.”



“G” inspires his players.



# TIGERS

## Girls’ Basketball Shooting for Playoffs

by Santiago Orellana

The Lady Tigers basketball season is underway. Having started the season strong, with a record of 5-4, the Lady Tigers are currently in fourth place in the Queens B West division.

Coming of a 7-7 playoff season, the Lady Tigers have high hopes for a better season. Led by Coach Devaux, the Lady Tigers have a strong team with four of the starting players returning for another season.

Coach Devaux said the team has great chemistry and that the girls play well together. “Four of my starting players have been playing together for 3 years,” said Mr. Devaux.

senior and four-year veteran Karolina Gorna was again appointed captain by the coach, making her a second-year captain. “The team chemistry has improved because we connect with each other, and talk more on the court,” Karolina said.

When the season finishes on February 12, the Lady Tigers want a better record than last year and to have make it to the playoffs.

The team consists of 15 athletes: Melissa Alzate, Julissa Ballesteros, Sherice Berkely, Elixandria Brienza, Ashley Deaza, Chrisleidy Duverge, Ana Estrada, Karolina Gorna, Meghan Guzman, Marva Jones, Kelly Ann Kato, Samantha Lupo, Raquel Reyes, Jamila Rodriguez, and Barbara Roman.

The season opened in late November with the Lady Tigers defeating Newcomers 44-17. Captain Karolina Gorna scored a team high 19 points in their opening game. Junior Melissa Alzate added 11 points in the Lady Tigers’ win. Four other players contributed to the scoreboard.

Queens Voc had their home opener against High School for Construction. The Lady Tigers were victorious with the score 40-9. Karolina Gorna and Melissa Alzate finished the game with 13 points each. Jamila Rodriguez and Marva Jones each added 4 points to the scoreboard.

The Lady Tigers were handed their first loss by the Baccalaureate School for Global Education (BSGE). The final score was 38-31, with Karolina being the top scorer for Queens Voc with 15 points and Melissa Alzate with 9 points.

The Lady Tigers first game of 2009 ended on in a sour note. The Lady Tigers lost 35-36 to Info Tech in double overtime. “Tough loss, but the team is strong and is going to bounce back,” said Karolina, who scored 18 points.

As the second half of the season begins, the Lady Tigers are showing improvement. “Defensively, the team has gotten better because of play time the Lady Tigers are able to play as a team,” said Coach Devaux. Captain Karolina and Coach Devaux agreed that the team is struggling offensively because the lack of gym time available. “We would like more gym time in order to work on plays,” said Karolina.

Eight games into the season, the leading scorers for the Lady Tigers are Melissa Alzate averaging 11.14 points per game, and Karolina Gorna averaging 11.43 points per game. Freshman Marva Jones is the team’s leading rebounder with a total of 80 rebounds.

For further information on the Lady Tigers visit [www.psal.org](http://www.psal.org).

### Remaining Home Game Schedule

- |      |                         |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1/20 | QV vs. BSGE             |
| 2/3  | QV vs. Frank Sinatra    |
| 2/5  | QV vs. Glover Cleveland |



# SPORTS

## Boys’ Basketball Doing Well Despite Setbacks

by Rafael De Oleo

The Boys’ Varsity basketball season started off on the right track by defeating Aviation, the current division leader, 65-32. Despite the big win against Aviation, the Tigers won only four of their next 10 games, bringing their record to 5-6.

The team is coached by long-time veteran coach, electrical installation teacher and handball coach, Mr. Richard Maloney.

Coach Maloney is known as a vociferous coach who works hard and expects his players “to be competitive, to represent the school well, and to have fun because, after all, sports are fun.”

There were about six tryout sessions prior to the start of the season. The coach said that the tryouts were “a bit hectic, but in the end I stuck to my philosophy which is to take juniors and seniors, to develop the junior varsity team.”

The team started off with 15 players: Jheferson Aldaz, Skyfree Ferguson, Ramon Gil, Christopher Green, Jerrell Hampton, Edwin Hill, Anthony Hughes, Mingmar Lama, Raven McCoy, Kareif McKoy, Joel Pichardo, Francis Reyes, Vinicios Santos, Ranjot Singh, and Christopher Suarez.

The number dropped when Skyfree Ferguson and Edwin Hill were injured in the middle of December. According to Coach Maloney, “Sky’s feeling good after returning to school from the Christmas break.” Sky agreed that he was feeling better, but he’s not yet 100%. “I can run, but shifting body weight is not as easy. Agility and flexibility have decreased, but I try strengthening it every other day and it is improving,” he said. To add insult to injury, Jerrell Hampton, Raven McCoy, and Vinicios Santos failed off the team in December, because of report card grades. The injuries and fail-offs did some damage to the team. Some of those players “were starters and it really hurt our team chemistry and overall ability to win games,” said Coach Maloney.

“Players are still getting healthy and building team chemistry, which never hurts. We have 11 games left and hopefully we can have progress in the next few games,” said Coach Maloney. Senior forward Anthony Hughes said the team “still has hope to make the playoffs as long as we keep on playing our game.”

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## Wrestling With Success

by Karolina Gorna

The school cafeteria was packed with students. The cafeteria was roaring with excitement as many supporters turned out to show their school spirit. On Monday, Dec. 1, at 4:30pm, the Queens Voc wrestling team, led by Mr. Zambrotta, hosted their first meet.

The team, which faced the H.S. of Applied Communications, went on to win their first meet 39-24. There were 24 matches, 13 of which Queens Voc won.

After that meet, the wrestling team went on to participate in the Charles Glass Memorial Tournament on Dec. 7. Sixteen wrestlers went from Queens Voc, seven of whom advanced to the medal rounds. Justin Rodriguez and Jefferson Zamora won gold medals. “It was an interesting experience where everyone got along, and was able to see others wrestle. Winning felt good, it showed that the hard work has paid off,” Justin said. Aaron Lorenzana won a silver medal. “I did my best, and I just had fun,” he said. Beishon Bailey won the bronze, and James Clark, Jamsed Naser, and Cristian Rodriguez came in fourth place. Justin Rodriguez said he plans to finish the season being undefeated. “We’re doing really good.” Aaron Lorenzana, one of the captains, has high hopes too. “I hope we get far within this season,” he said.

This is a sport where three pounds or a referee may be the cause of a loss, Mr. Zambrotta said, so the patience of his athletes is necessary. Best effort really

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## Girls’ Bowling Team



*The Girls finished 9-3, taking the division championship.*