Vocational Voice

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Students come together to contribute their skills.

Creative Arts Group Embarks on Internet Project

by Stephanie Baique

This spring semester, the Creative Arts Group is working on a new project.

Students in the Creative Arts Group will be working on a zine, an online magazine. Ms. Radovich and Mr. Garcia, two of the Creative Arts Group advisors, came up with the idea of having an online magazine. According to Mr. Garcia, a zine is being designed to display different art works created by Queens Voc students. "If you are not a member of the group, it doesn't mean you can't submit work to the zine," Mr. Garcia said.

As students submit work, the Creative Arts Group members and the advisors will go through an approval process. Other advisors of the group are Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Ford, Mr. Bowen, and Mr. Zambrotta.

The Creative Arts Group is also working to expand student membership. "The more outlets of expression that students are given at Queens Voc, the more interest we're going to see, and this we hope to expand into other areas, including academics," Mr. Garcia said.

The advisors and members of the Creative Arts Group are also encouraging students from Queens Voc to submit their own art work to the group for the online magazine.

Creative Arts Group member sophomore Omar Nieves is a writer. "I Like writing about anything that comes to my mind, such as love and my life," he said. Omar also sketches cartoon characters. The Creative Arts Group is "a place for me to be noticed by other people in the school," he said. Omar plans to become a web designer and he believes that the Creative Arts Group will help him with his major in college and give him ideas, he said.

Sophomore Meghan Guzman, another member, is also into writing. "I write short stories about life issues and about fantasy," she said. Meghan loves to write and believes the Creative Arts Group "is a good outlet for expressing yourself besides regular English classes." Meghan is interested in majoring as a journalist or magazine editor in college. According to Meghan, the group gives her a chance to expand her writing skills and to learn how to work with others.

Sophomore Cory Major is another member. Currently, Cory is creating posters to encourage other Queens Voc

Continued on Page 2

What's Inside

this edition of Vocational Voice

VE Fair, VICA.....2
FBLA, Graduation....3
NOCTI, SAT Prep.....4
Mock Trial, Chess... 5
FED, Yearbook.....6
UTI Trip, Advisory.....7
Feedback.....8
Principal's Message.....9
Tips, Movie Reviews....10
Senior Shop Profiles...11
What Students Know..12
Places to Visit in NY.....13
VideoGames Review....14
Senior Sports Profiles.15
Tigers Sports...16

SSBT Seniors Put Skills to the Test

by Gabriel Ortiz

"Construction Skills 2000 offers our students 20 to 30 different unions to get into to become apprentices," said Mr. Garrison, the director of School of Skilled Building Trades.

While in Construction Skills, seniors in the School of Skilled Building Trades can expand their knowledge of their trade and have a place to work after they graduate high school. "Construction Skills opens the doors for the graduates to become apprentices in various unions and, hopefully, get into those unions," said Mr. Maloney, the 12th grade electrical installation teacher.

According to Mr. Garrison, students who are in Construction Skills go to the Consortium for Workers Education, in Long Island City, once a week for 10 weeks from 2-5 pm. They meet with union officials, get information on various unions, and select which unions they would like to be in. During the summer, students who are selected by a union for their apprenticeship program are taught the academic part of their trade, such as math, reading, and science.

Only plumbing and electrical installation seniors are eligible to take part in Construction Skills. Students interested in taking part in Construction Skills must fill out an application given to them by their shop teacher and return the form to their teacher. According to Mr. Maloney, once the students have handed in their applications, the teachers select students who they believe are responsible enough to complete the training program. In addition to being selected by their senior shop teacher, the students must also have 2 copies of their birth certificate, Social Security card or US Green Card, government issued or official high school photo, a recent high school transcript, and a selective service registration.

"Across the street for Queens Voc is a plumbers local," said Mr. Garrison, "and once a year, out of 2,000 guys applying for that union, about 60-70 get in, and our students get placed into that union before those 2,000 guys who are waiting on line."

Seniors cheer their peers at annual luncheon.

Senior Year Winds Down with Flurry of Activities

by Yessenia Perez

In a few short months, most Queens Voc seniors will finish their high school journey.

The senior luncheon was held on Friday, April 20, from 12pm until 4pm at Bruno's on The Boulevard. Each senior attended paid $25.

The luncheon included a superhero/cartoon acharacter costume contest, a salsa contest and a merengue contest. Janio Fernandez dressed as Batman won first placein the costume contest. Jennifer Cabrera, dressed as Betty Boop took second place,

And the winners are...

and Estefania Garcia, Little Red Riding Hood, took third. The winners of the Salsa contest were Steven Vargas and Jennifer Cabrera in first place and Joel Moreaux and Crystal Tejada in second place. The merengue contest winners were Ariel Cruz and Dairis Jimenez in first place and Jerell Reyes and Annakay Castro in second.

The winners of the senior personality for the yearbook were announced at the luncheon: High School Sweethearts Daniel Medina and Yessenia Perez; Best Dressed Romeo Harrinandan and Abiola Raji; Best Friends Oscar Hernandez and Michael Calderon, and Stephanie Valerio and Raiza Izquierdo; best smile Paul Carino and Crystal Tejada; Best Hair Joseph Colon and Normajean Noel , Most Likely to Succeed Alan Casallas and Yolanis Barros; Most Known Junior Perez and Rayvan Walker; Most Outspoken Kelvin Smartt and Rayvan Walker; Most Flirtatious Junior Perez and Anadia Diaz; Biggest Change Joseph Colon and Leidy Sierra; Class Clown Nicholos Nissirios Leilani Payne; Mr. and Ms. Congeniality Daniel Medina and Cassie Vasquez; Head Turner Rene Cruz and Estefania Garcia; Best Personality Joel Moreaux and Jennifer Cabrera; Most Athletic Diomedes Gonzalez and Dairis Jimenez; Teachers Pet Terel Watson and Alejandra Lopez; Shyest Alfredo Poveda and Kayla White; Best Eyes Lukasz Zaczeniuk and Ana Gomez; and Most unique Joel Tabarez and Luisa Irala.

The senior ring ceremony was held on Friday, March 30 in the library. Seniors who purchased a ring gathered with family and friends to celebrate. Arielle Rios said that will wear her ring, as a symbol of her accomplish-ments throughout her high school years.

A second senior food festival was held on Wednesday, March 28. Seniors raised $2400 between the two food festivals. The money which will reduce the price of prom tickets by $25.

The senior prom will be held on Friday, June 1, at Terrace on the Park, from 8pm until 1am. The cost for the prom tickets is $75 for the first 140 tickets and $90 after. "I am looking forward to prom and having an unforgettable and exciting day with my senior class," said Estefania Garcia senior class president.

Graduation will be held June 26, at LaGuardia Community College, from 7:30pm until 10pm.

Annual VE Trade Fair: Productive & Entertaining

by Carlos Guerra

Queens Voc business students participated in the 10th Annual Virtual Enterprises Trade Fair, which was held in New York City at the 69th Regiment Armory on Friday, March 30. More than 60 VE schools from New York City and VE schools from countries such as Italy and Australia participated.

VE students having fun.

The trade fair allows students to showcase and market the virtual products they have created for their virtual enterprise (VE) class. Queens Voc's VE students developed a line of virtual clothes they market through their virtual company, DiverseCity Wear. One of the tactics the Queens Voc students used to promote their booth was to raffle off a Sidekick 3.

The students demonstrated their skills, knowledge, and diverse talents in entrepreneurship, communications, computer technology, and global business management according to Mr. Mugan, the VE teacher at Queens Voc. Mr. Mugan prepared his students by having them role play, acting as if they were a member of their own business and showing their catalog to the customers. They competed for prizes in best booth, best salesmanship, best web page, and best catalog, and were judged on professionalism, creativity, and social skills. "The booths were colorful and amazing," said Syeda Ali.

The fair prepares student participants to experience New York's vast and diverse business cultural, and educational communities, said Mr. Mugan. "The fair was very productive and educational," said Laura Gonzalez.

Representing Queens Voc were Jerry Chang, Jacqueline Concepcion, Brandon Drakeford, Marlene Fernandez, Estefania Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, Jorge Herrera, Jessica Jaron, Ali Reda, Arielle Rios, Keisha Tyler, Jossie Vaca, Tameka Quinones, and Natalie Vargas.

Teachers enjoying fair.

CTE Endorsed Diplomas

Students Must Meet *Major* Requirements

by Gabriel Ortiz

Queens Voc students have an advantage over many other New York City school students. That advantage is their vocational training and Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification.

Queens Voc consists of 4 smaller learning communities (SLCs): the School of Exploration and Discovery (SED), the School of Entrepreneurial Studies (SES), the School of Skilled Building Trades (SSBT), and the School of Computer and Electronic Engineering Technologies (SCEET). With the exception of SED, the 9th grade school, each SLC offers two 2 majors: SES consists of business and cosmetology, SSBT consists of electrical installation and plumbing, and SCEET consists of computer technology and electronics.

"Students who are in business must pass all CTE courses in sequence: students in 10th grade take Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Word, MOS Excel, and MOS PowerPoint and Business English classes. Students in 11th grade take E-Commerce I and II, Accounting I and II, MOS Access, and Business Law. Students in 12th grade must take Web Design I and II, College Web Design I and II (at LaGuardia Community College), Financial Planning, Taxation, and Virtual Enterprise I and II," said Ms. Newman, the director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies. Students must earn two MOS certifications, create a portfolio and a resume, and complete a minimum of 60 hours of work-based learning related to their major through an internship. "This internship or 'job shadowing experience' must be documented with the work-based coordinator, Ms. Spallone," she added.

Students who completed the work-related internship must also complete a project that relates to their work experience. Students who have an after school job that relates to their field do not have to schedule an internship or do a work-related project, but must still complete 60 hours of work-based experience. Students must also pass 2 semesters of college level courses, either Web Design or Accounting, at LaGuardia Community College during their senior year, pass all required courses and Regents exams, and pass the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) Fundamental Concepts of Business and Marketing Exam to graduate.

Students who major in cosmetology must pass all cosmetology courses in sequence: 10th grade students take Beginning Cosmetology I and II, 11th grade students take Intermediate Cosmetology I and II, and 12th grade students take Advanced Cosmetology I and II, and Salon Business Management. Students must pass the NOCTI cosmetology exam, complete a minimum of 60 hours of work-based learning experience related to their major through an internship, have a minimum of 1,000 hours of work-based experience in school, create a portfolio and a resume, submit the application for the State Board cosmetology exam, and pass all required courses and Regents exams to graduate.

Students in SSBT must complete a minimum of 60 hours of work-based learning through an internship. "Students doing the internship get to work on the outside and get the feel of the trade," said Mr. Garrison, the director of the School of Skilled Building Trades. Students who have an after school job that relates to their field do not have to complete an internship given to them by the school, but must still complete 60 hours of work-based experience. Students in SSBT must also pass all required courses and Regents exams to graduate. Students majoring in electrical installation must pass the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) exam; students majoring in plumbing do not take the NCCER exam, but will still become certified.

Students in SCEET have to pass all required courses and Regents exams, and must complete a minimum of 60 hours of work-based learning through an internship. Students majoring in computer technology must pass the A+ computer repair exam. "Students majoring in electronic engineering technology are not eligible for an endorsed diploma because our school has not yet become state-certified," said Mr. Gorman, the director of SCEET.

Students earning their CTE endorsed diploma must meet regular high school graduation standards and meet the requirements for their CTE course.

"As a CTE school, we are required to put you in all of the courses that lead you to your CTE diploma. If the CTE course and requirements are not completed, then the student can only receive the ordinary high school diploma offered in any other school," said Ms. Vittor, the principal of Queens Voc.

Queens Voc Shows Off Skills @ VICA

by David Stanojev

On Wednesday, April 18th, 6 students traveled to Syracuse, New York, to represent Queens Voc and compete against other New York State high schools in a competition run by Skills USA, also known as VICA.

Skills USA coordinates statewide competitions in which high school students compete for scholarships, cash prizes, tools, and jobs. First place winners represent their state in a nationwide Skills USA competition.

"Students were recommended by their shop teachers to compete against each other to decide who would represent our school in the Skills USA competition," said Mr. Cintron, the Skills USA / VICA advisor.

Students who participated in the Skills USA competition were Carlos Guerra, Kevin Handy, Christian Jadan, Kacy James, Gabriel Ortiz, Steve Pinell, Terel Watson, and Lukasz Zaczeniuk.

Terel Watson placed 2nd place in the state in the prepared speech competition. "I am happy that I was able to participate in the VICA competition and represent our school," he said. Christian Jadan placed 4th in the state in the electronics applications competition. "Competing in the competition was a very interesting experience," said Gabriel Ortiz, who placed 4th in the state in the industrial motor control competition. "Not only did I learn more about the trade, but I got to compete against the best student- electricians New York has to offer," he added. Kevin Handy tied for 4th place in the state in the plumbing competition. Kacy James placed 6th in the state in the computer maintenance technician competition. Lukasz Zaczeniuc placed 20th in the state in the residential wiring competition.

The Queens Voc students stayed at the Doubletree Inn during the three-day trip upstate. While there, the students were provided with buffet breakfasts and dinners. To attend, the students had to pay a $13 registration fee and sell a box of chocolates. The school paid the remainder of the costs.

VICA participants make our school proud.

Continued from page 1

Creative Arts Group

students to join. Cory primarily writes about topics that are "relevant to my personal life, such as the way I was raised and the experiences I had growing up." Cory, like Meghan, is becoming more comfortable working with others. "Being able to work with other people helped me become more socialized and comfortable expressing myself," he said.

"Being able to work with other people helped me become more socialized and comfortable expressing myself." said Cory Major

Creative Arts Group members such as Omar, Meghan, and Cory will be posting their work on the zine. The zine won't have an official name until the Creative Arts Group decides on a name as a group. As time goes by, students can continue to add art work to the zine.

Students interested in joining the Creative Arts Group or submitting art work to the zine should speak with any of the advisors or attend a meeting. The Creative Arts Group meets Mondays from 4pm to 5pm in room 325.

Graduating by the Numbers

by Volodymyr Sulyk

Last year, 145 out of 212 Queens Voc senior students earned their high school diplomas.

Queens Voc students who earned the necessary credits to graduate in four years received the following diplomas: 3 received an IEP diploma, 23 received a local diploma, 23 received a Regents diploma, 39 received a CTE Regents diploma, 50 received a CTE Advanced Regents diploma, and one student received an Advanced Regents with Honors CTE diploma, according to Ms. Carfagno, Mr. Rivera's secretary.

Six additional students who were scheduled to graduate in 2005 earned their diplomas as well. Of those 6, 2 received a regular diploma, 2 received a Regents diploma, 1 received a CTE Regents diploma, and one student received a CTE Advanced Regents diploma, according to Ms. Carfagno

After challenging day, students have a right smile .

History Students Participate in Constitution Contest

by Jacqueline Concepcion

"You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be held against you in a court of law." This statement comes from the Miranda Rights established as part of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Eighteen students from Mr. Davidson's American Government honors class participated in the "We the People…The Citizen and the Constitution Contest," which took place on Wednesday, January 10, at Pace University.

Mr. Davidson's class was divided into 6 teams, known as units, which studied a specific concept of the Constitution. The class competed against 14 teams from other schools. One of Mr. Davidson's teams, Unit 4: "How have the Protections of the Bill of Rights been Developed and Expanded?" received a plaque for their outstanding performance, ranking the highest among all Unit 4 groups in the contest. Unit 4 consisted of Catherine

Preparing to present.

Gomez, Brandon Drakeford, Daisy Vivar, and Karen Mejia. Overall, Queens Voc ranked 11 out 14 in the contest.

Pace University hosted an award ceremony for students after the contest. "It was nice because we knew how we did on the same day," said Mr. Davidson. The teachers' award ceremony was held two weeks after. According to Mr. Davidson, there will also be an award ceremony held at Queens Voc for his students. Since the Constitution Contest is authorized by Congress, the students will receive certificates signed by Congressman Crowley, who represents parts of Queens and the Bronx.

Mr. Davidson was very pleased with his students' performance. "The students worked very well together and answered the question to the best of their ability. They gave some good examples and were challenged by the questions raised," said Mr. Davidson.

Many of the participants felt they had learned something valuable from the Constitution Contest. "I learned a lot about U.S. history, the Constitution, the amendments, and different court cases. It also helped me realize the importance of the Constitution…because it still affects our lives today," said Daisy Vivar.

Students from Pace University were assigned to help high school teams prepare for the contest. Justin Irvine, who participated in the Constitution Contest when he was in high school, assisted Mr. Davidson's class. "Justin Irvine's past experience in this competition helped us better prepare. Justin helped us review questions that could have been asked in the competition," said Brandon Drakeford.

The students who participated in the Constitution Contest in their corresponding units were:

Unit 1: What are the Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System?

Adrienne Diaz, Solangie Gomez, Shamel Lobban, Hugo Ronco

Unit 2: How did the Framers Create the Constitution?

Steven D'Elena, Oscar Mendez, Josue Sanchez

Unit 3: How did the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shape American Institutions and Practices?

David Bermudez, Dayana Jaramillo

Unit 4: How have the Protections of the Bill of Rights been Developed and Expanded?

Brandon Drakeford, Catherine Gomez, Karen Mejia, Daisy Vivar

Unit 5: What Rights does the Bill of Rights Protect?

Patrick Soodeen, Ebony Strachan, Guillermo Taveras

Unit 6: What are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?

Jose Flor, Steve Pinell

Bathroom Lockdown

by Elbel Estrella

Throughout the year, the school's administration has been trying to prevent bathrooms from being vandalized. Vandalism has been a problem throughout the whole school. The bathrooms, however, have been attacked more frequently and in worse ways.

"Students mistake the walls and mirrors for paper and write graffiti on them, ruin soap and toilet paper dispensers, and fill the bathroom floors with water," said Mr. Vela, our school's assistant principal.

The school administration has had enough. New policies and regulations have been instituted in order to protect bathrooms. Policies differ slightly between girls and boys however.

All boys' bathrooms have been locked in the new wing except for the one on the first floor, and to use the bathroom, "boys have to show a pass from their current class and write their names in the sign-in book. "One boy at a time is supposedly allowed in the bathroom, but that's not always followed," said junior Steve D'Elena. "Further, the bathroom is closed the first and last ten minutes of each period," said Mr. K. Rowe, the new school aide, who monitors the entrance to the bathroom. When the school aide is not present, the boys have to go to the main office and get permission to use the bathroom on the old wing.

The girls are allowed to use the bathroom on the first floor 1st through 3rd periods and the bathroom on the second floor 4th through 7th periods. The limits on the girls are less severe because girls have not vandalized bathrooms nearly as much as the boys have, said Agent Foster, another of Queens Voc school safety agents.

"Policies are likely to continue throughout the rest of the school year," said Mr. Vela. "As for next year, the administration will decide what measures are going to be taken in order to control our school property."

FBLA Students Show Their Business Skills

by Yolanis Barros

Six Queens Voc students participated this year in the FBLA's Spring District Competition which took place on Friday, February 9, at Norman Thomas High School.

The competition consisted of a written part, which tested the students' knowledge, and an oral part, which tested the students' logic and thinking. The students were tested on topics such as business communication, business law, public speaking, accounting, and entrepreneurship.

Jacqueline Concepcion, Estefania Garcia, Alejandra Lopez, Jonathan Maldonado, Andrea Romero, and Hugo Ronco represented Queens Voc.

Mr. Mugan, the chapter's advisor said that the six students who attended the competition prepared by studying information and tests from previous years. "I think we were very successful and the results speak for themselves," he said.

Hugo Ronco won first place

FBLA Chapter President

in Accounting I, Jacqueline won second place in Financial Literacy, and shared first place with Jonathan Maldonado in Entrepreneurship, and Estefania Garcia and Alejandra Lopez won second place in Business Decision Making. "I think we did a great job," said Jacqueline Concepcion, "we were able to use the skills we learned in QV to go to the state competition."

Four students went on to compete in the state competition, which took place from April 23 – 25, at the Nevele Grande Resort in Ellenville in upstate New York. Thee students were: Stephanie Cerqueda, Jacqueline Concepcion, Alejandra Lopez, and Jonathan Maldonado. Schools from all over the state competed. Queens Voc students were not in the top five. Alejandra Lopez said, "It was a great experience and even though we didn't win, I was glad to be there."

Cosmo students look, listen, and learn.

Students Well-Prepared for Cosmo NOCTI Exam

by Estefania Garcia

Queens Vocational & Technical High School senior cosmetology students are preparing to take the National Occupation Competency Testing Institute Exam, also known as the NOCTI Exam, which will take place the second week of May.

The NOCTI Exam is a state cosmetology test students must pass to receive their CTE (Career & Technical Education) diploma. "The NOCTI Exam tests their abilities and their knowledge," said Mr. Grochala, a senior class cosmetology teacher. According to Mr. Grochala, to be able to take this exam, students must have at least 3 and a half years of cosmetology experience of theory and practical lessons. Student must have done practical work such as cutting hair, coloring hair, relaxing; written work; and have studied hair strands, nails, and skin. "The NOCTI Exam compares our students with students all over the country," said Ms. Quartuccio.

"I feel that this test is a good because it allows us to demonstrate the knowledge we have learned for the past 3 years," said cosmetology student Jacqueline Sepulveda. The exam will be proctored by Queens Voc's cosmetology teachers, who do not proctor their own class. "We feel students should get used to someone else checking their work because in the state exam state proctors will be checking their exams," said Ms. Quartuccio.

Nearly 50 students will take the exam; 24 students from Mr. Grochala's class and 25 students from Ms. Quartuccio's cosmetology class. Tutoring classes to help the cosmetology students review what they have learned for this exam are offered Fridays period 8 in room 341. "The 8th period tutoring with Ms. Quartuccio on Fridays is very helpful because it helps me practice and improve my cosmetology skills," said Leidy Sierra.

Many students are looking forward to obtaining their CTE diploma. Cosmetology student Anna-Kay Vaz said she is nervous about taking this exam but "I know I am capable of passing it because I am prepared for it. I want to pass the NOCTI Exam to start preparing for the state exam to receive my license."

In order to apply for the state exam to obtain a cosmetology license, students must complete 1,000 hours of instruction. Students are also required to take a physical exam. Students are given a schedule to take the written exam and the practical exam. If both exams are passed cosmetology students receive their license.

"The students usually do very well because they are intelligent and talented," said Mr. Grochala.

Free SAT Prep Classes:

Students can enhance their scores without cost

by Stephanie Baique

Queens Voc is once again offering sophomores and juniors the chance to prepare for the SATs, by offering prep classes funded by the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation. The prep courses usually cost $1,500, but there is no cost for students selected for the program. Students' enrolled in the courses have the option to attend a school in Manhattan, the Bronx, or Queens to take the course.

Edwin Adames, Adrienne Diaz, Yara Diaz, Diana Giraldo, Catherine Gomez, Christi Hernandez, Allison McCarthy, Richard Ortiz, Ada Perez, Ruthie Vegas, and Jose Flor are juniors who have been enrolled in the program since their sophomore year. The 18-month program started in January 2006 and runs until the winter of their senior year.

The Princeton Review program consists of both English and math courses. Mrs. Basirico, who coordinates the program at Queens Voc, pointed out that "These classes do not teach you math or English." The program helps students' apply concepts and enhance test taking strategies. "The benefit of attending theses prep courses is enormous. To be able to raise their SAT scores gives students the ability to apply to more and better colleges," Mrs. Basirico said.

According to Edwin Adames, students are given diagnostic PSATs after a couple of classes to see how much they are learning. "Before we took the class, they gave us a diagnostic PSAT to see what level we were up to. After some classes, they gave us the diagnostics again to see how much we improved," Edwin said. Edwin takes the course at Flushing High School on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm.

Ruthie Vegas attends Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. "We learn all the basics in math and work our way up to learn things we never learned before. They also teach us some vocabulary words we are not familiar with," Ruthie said. According to Ruthie, her scores went higher on the second PSAT. The classes make her feel confident to know that "I can get a higher grade," she said.

Every one of the students enrolled last year showed improvement each time they were tested, Mrs. Basirico said. Richard Ortiz attends Flushing High School on Saturdays, from 1pm to 4pm. "We learn different types of equations in math and the ways that sentences should be written," he said. On the second PSAT, Richard scored higher.

Adrienne Diaz also attends Flushing High School on Saturdays. She takes the morning courses from 9am to 12pm. "I didn't do that good because I didn't know anything since the questions were really hard and there wasn't enough time," she said. Her classes taught her strategies on how to answer math and English questions faster. The SATs are timed and students must be able to answer as much questions as possible. By learning how to save time and answer questions faster, Adrienne also scored higher on her second PSAT.

Interested in SAT classes? See Ms. Basirico in the Guidance Office

January Regents Results

compiled by Gaochao Huang

RCTs	Reading	Writing	Math	Global Studies	US History	Science
# Took	34	30	37	40	24	40
# Passed (65+)	9	24	6	12	7	11
% Passed	26.5	80	16.2	30.3	29.2	27.5

Regents	English	Global History	US History	Math A	Math B	Living Environ.	Earth Science
# Took	248	194	64	176	20	89	15
# Passed (65+)	127	18	9	104	2	16	2
% Passed	51.2	9.3	14.1	59.1	10	18	13.3
# Credit (55-64)	45	33	18	40	4	24	2
% Credit	18.1	17	28.1	22.7	20	27	13.3

Independent Study Projects

Many seniors still have some work to do

by Heriberto Velazquez

Independent study projects. One last requirement for graduation. Seniors missing a Music, Art, or Foreign Language credit need to complete these projects to graduate.

The Art and Music projects are distributed and graded by Mr. Garcia. The Spanish project is distributed and graded by Mr. Guerrero. Queens Voc doesn't offer the foreign language proficiency exam because foreign language classes aren't taught at the school.

Seniors who didn't take Art or Music in their freshman year are assigned independent study projects in their senior year. The Spanish project is necessary for seniors who didn't take and pass a foreign language proficiency exam in the eighth grade.

The Art and the Music projects consist 4 parts and the Spanish project consists of 3 parts.

The Art project consists of:
I. Literacy in the Visual Arts
II. Making connections through Visual Arts
III. Community and Cultural resource
IV. Careers and Life long learning in the Visual Arts

The Music project consists of:
I. Music Literacy
II. Making connections through Music
III. Community and Cultural resource
IV. Careers and life-long learning in the music industry

The Spanish project consists of:
I. Cut out 10 pictures or drawings from a newspaper or magazine and write captions in Spanish and English for each. II. Use captions to write a story in English
III. Research a city in Spain
IV. Select a Spanish speaking country and explain why you would want to visit it.

Seniors must complete their independent study projects and receive a passing grade to graduate. The projects should not be submitted at the last minute.

Seniors should check with their counselor to see if they owe any independent study projects.

Mock Trial team is ready to defend their case.

Mock Trial Wins & Loses

Students Role Play Court Case

by Jerry Chang

On February 28, a college student named Pat Macintosh entered court and was accused of cyber-stalking another student in a school chat room. Luckily, this incident never happened. It was just a simulated story that was used for this year's Mock Trial team competition.

The Mock Trial team consisted of eight students who role-played a realistic court case. Each participating student acted as either a lawyer or a witness. The team's coach was Mr. Davidson.

Mr. Davidson, who has coached in the Mock Trial competition for 23 years, said, "I wanted to coach the Mock Trial team because when I first heard of the program I was interested and got a couple of students to join. I want the students to learn how to advocate in a constructive way, to persuade the judge while showing respect for the opponent and for the law. The students will develop public speaking skills in this program, learn to form arguments, and learn about the law."

Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday in February the team met from 3pm to 5pm. During these sessions the lawyers prepared the questions they would ask. They also decided what to ask their witnesses. The witnesses practiced their roles in the simulated lawsuit, and were judged on their ability to portray the witness as well as how rapidly they would respond to questions.

According to Mr. Davidson, each year, a different realistic court case is created to be role-played by students on the team. The case this year was the People of New York vs Pat Macintosh, in which a college student was accused of cyber-stalking. A threatening letter from Pat resulted in charges of 2nd and 3rd degree cyber-stalking.

The students on the Mock Trial team were: Moushumi Dhar, Steve Pinell, Tameika Ramkumar, Hugo Ronco, Tecomblah Siedio, Aurelio Stirling, Volodymyr Sulyk, and Terel Watson.

The Mock Trial competition had two rounds, the first on Wednesday, February 28, and the second on Wednesday, March 7. Both rounds took place at Queens County Court House.

Queens Voc's Mock Trial team —lost its first round. In that round, Queens Voc played the defense against Bryant High School. Mr. Davidson's Mock Trial team won the case, but lost the round because the opposing team earned more points on their performance. In the second round, Queens Voc played the prosecution against Queens Gateway High School. Again, Queens Voc won the case, but again lost on points and was eliminated from the competition.

After two rounds, the teams that lost both are automatically out of the competition. Those that won both rounds automatically continue to the third round. Of the teams that won one round and lost one round, those with the highest point totals are allowed to continue.

Despite the team's loss, the Mock Trial team was a memorable experience for the students involved. "I found that in Mock Trial, I can see how the legal system works, how a real court case goes, and how the lawyers present their evidence," said Hugo Ronco, lawyer for the defense.

"I really enjoyed this year's case, but last year's case was more enjoyable because it was my first year," said Terel Watson, lawyer for the prosecution. "Mr. Ruben, our advising lawyer, has proved to be a real help to prepare for the Mock Trial competition. It is nice to have an actual lawyer to take his time off to work with us," Terel said.

Interested In Joining?
See Mr. Davidson in
the Program Office

Check Mate

by Jacqueline Concepcion

Queens Voc's Chess Club, coordinated by Mr. Papadopol, meets every Thursday from 4 to 5pm in room 202. The club is open to all students, whether they are experienced chess players or are interested in learning to play.

The Chess Club is designed to teach students different techniques and advantages in order to win the game. According to Mr. Papadopol, a typical Chess Club meeting consists of playing a game to warm-up, then a lecture, which explains some chess moves and techniques, and lastly, the students apply what they learned by playing another game.

One does not have to know how to play in order to join. "Alejandra Lopez joined the club without knowing anything about chess and is now a good player," said Mr. Papadopol. "At first, I didn't know anything about chess, but with Mr. Papadopol's help, I was able to understand and play to the best of my ability. Now I can beat my sister in chess," she said. On the other hand, Asmain Azad has prior knowledge about chess but wants to improve. "I want to be the best and smartest player out of Queens Voc," he said.

Papadopol Chess Master

"Just as the gym helps build your body, chess helps build your mind," said Mr. Papadopol. According to Mr. Papadopol, not only does chess work-out the mind, but it also improves long-term and short-term memory.

"I feel good because now I feel that I have accomplished something," said Alejandra Lopez regarding her new-found ability to play chess. "Joining the Chess Club is a great experience. Anyone who is interested should definitely attend the sessions," she said.

Active members of the Chess Club are Azmain Azad, Alejandra Lopez, and Volodymyr Sulyk, but the club is looking for new members. Interested students should speak with Mr. Papadopol in room 202.

Students making the best of their experience.

Cosmo and Business Students Attend Beauty Show and Meet the Pros

by Jennifer Cabrera

The annual International Beauty Show took place from March 11-13 from 8am to 5pm, at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. The show was open for professional hair stylists and Queens Voc students. About 90 juniors and seniors from Queens Voc—80 cosmetology students and 10 business students—attended.

The stylists and beauty supply store owners paid $65 to enter, but Queens Voc students paid only $5 because they are sponsored by VATEA. The cosmetology teachers received 20 tickets each for their students. VATEA, short for the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, sets out a new vision of vocational and technical education for the 21st century. The VATEA grant pays for the majority part of the students' tickets.

The International Beauty Show introduces new styles and products. New techniques for perms, straightening, and cutting are demonstrated to the attendees. Manufacturers provided samples of their latest products at the show and attendees got a 20% to 30% discount on the new products.

"It's a wonderful experience to see stylists coming from all over the country," said Ms. D'Onofrio. "There are a lot of glamorous models, music, dancing, and fog a machine, which makes the atmosphere exciting and different," said Ms.Quartuccio. Ms. Newman and the cosmetology teachers accompanied the students to the show.

"The best part of the show was when a professional hair stylist transformed her model's hair and wardrobe in less than 5 minutes," said Ana Gomez. "It was fun, even though 2 years ago it was better, they used to have more variety in products," said Elizabeth Zambrano. The cosmetology students get this opportunity every year to talk to people in the field. "When I spoke to a stylist, he gave me a variety of pointers that can help me out when I decide to open my own salon," said Raydalkys Reyes. "This hair show was very exciting because this was the first time I attended, and it was worth it," added Nachelle Colon.

Business Students Place 2nd

by Carlos Guerra

Queens Voc business students recently participated in the Fed Challenge, a competition in which students demonstrate their knowledge of the powers and policies of the Federal Reserve. The Fed Challenge took place at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from Wednesday, April 17 to Friday, April 20.

In this contest, students have to analyze various economic indicators and make recommendations to the Open Market Committee of the Federal Reserve Bank. The students must demonstrate an understanding of the U.S. economy and identify at least one significant risk, using a PowerPoint presentation and explaining their suggestions.

The students are judged on their knowledge of the Fed and monetary policy, responses to the judges' questions, presentation skills, and the quality of the research, according to Mr. Mugan, the Virtual Enterprise teacher.

Students Jerry Chang, Jacqueline Concepcion, Brandon Drakeford, and Ali Reda participated and finished in 2nd place. "It was a great experience for me to be there," said Brandon.

"I am very proud of my students, they performed well," said Mr. Mugan.

If you're interested
in joining FBLA
contact Mr. Mugan
in room 412

The Faces of the New Work Force

by Jeffrey Truong

What used to be considered as a man's job isn't really a job just for men anymore. On Wednesday, February 7, a presentation was held to expose 9th grade females to opportunities in various trades, to motivate young girls to go into careers that traditionally were considered jobs for males.

The presentation was conducted at Queens Voc by Legal Momentum, an organization dedicated to advancing women's rights.

Cheryl Ferrell is a young journeywoman who belongs to Local Union 3 IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers). She has been in the field for about 20 years. Her daughter is following in her footsteps by becoming an electrician. "All women can do a man's job," she said.

Sarah Taveras, is a 9th grader interested in being an electrician. "The job looks interesting and it caught my eye, plus it pays well," she said.

Maria Espinal is a 2nd-year apprentice millwright. A millwright installs, maintains, and repairs stationary industrial machinery and mechanical equipment by interpreting drawings, assembling parts, and performing layouts. She belongs to Local 740 working with Con Ed. Before she got into this trade, Ms. Espinal worked at a retail store.

Elaine Ward has been in the plumbing field since 1986. She has a master plumber's license and owns her own business called ISIS Plumbing, Inc. Ms. Ward stood on line for 9 hours just to get an application to become a plumber. "Move to be motivated," she said. Student Karen Alvarez, who is interested in plumbing, said, "I learned that a woman can get paid as much as men do."

Tammy Rivera, a journeywoman, has been in carpentry for about 13 years. She is also an instructor and a shop steward. Ms. Rivera discussed wages, which are about $16 an hour to start and can go to about $70 an hour. "Woman can do it too," she said.

Lucille Reid is a 3rd-year carpentry apprentice. She talked about how it took her a while before trying to become a carpenter. Ms. Reid said that she loves her job and wishes she had become a carpenter earlier. She's very happy now, she said

Deborah Star Reed, a journeywoman in carpentry, has been in the field for about 24 years. She is a shop steward, teacher, and business owner. Her business is called Star Fire Enterprise, Inc. Ms. Reed encouraged the girls to think about going into fields that were previously considered "men's work."

Veronica Session, a journeywoman in carpentry, has been in the field for about 18 years. She instructs students in a program called Construction Skills 2000 and belongs to Local Union 926. "Women rock," said Veronica.

"The response to the breakfast with the freshmen girls and tradeswomen was extremely successful. Not only did the women give a short biography of themselves, they dressed as if they were going to work. Several tradeswomen even brought their own tools to show them to the students.

Francoise Jacobsohn is a project manager for Legal Momentum and helped organize the presenters. She works with non-tradition professions, jobs traditionally held by men.

It is believed that having these career women speak to the 9th grade girls will motivate the girls to think seriously about choosing vocational training in jobs previously considered "men's work."

The staff members who help set up the breakfast presentation were: Ms. Radovich, the director of the 9th grade School of Exploration and Discovery; Ms. Dusha, the principal's secretary; Ms. Dattner the 9th grade guidance counselor, Ms. Peteroy, a 9th grade math teacher, Ms. Muresan, a guidance intern, and Ms. White and Ms. Vasquez, who are school aides.

No such thing as "men's jobs" say trade women.

FED Challenge

by Carlos Guerra

Queens Voc business students recently participated in the Fed Challenge, a competition in which students demonstrate their knowledge of the powers and policies of the Federal Reserve. The Fed Challenge took place at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from Wednesday, April 17 to Friday, April 20.

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"I am very proud of my students, they performed well," said Mr. Mugan.

Yearbook Completed

by Kacy James

The yearbook staff of Queens Voc is responsible for the layout of the yearbook for the senior class. For the 2006-2007 school year, Mr. Stefanidis, a social studies teacher in the Advance program, headed the layout of the yearbook.

Sixteen Queens Voc seniors worked on the yearbook: Bristy Ahmed, Ruth Arteaga, Nachelle Colin, Nube Condo, Linda Dutan, Yuri Gomez, Luisa Irala, Alejandra Lopez, Nimsey Rojas, Andrea Romero, Leidy Sierra, Christopher Tavarez, Terel Watson, Anna-Kay Vaz, Steven Vargas, and Elizabeth Zambrano. Terel Watson was the lead editor of the yearbook.

The students took photographs, organized the photos, checked names for captions, and edited the photos for use on yearbook pages. Students also laid-put the pages by positioning titles, captions, and photos.

Yearbook staff hard at work.

The job wasn't easy to accomplish. "Coordinating meetings was the biggest problem with the yearbook squad. Since there were no consequences for not showing up, a lot of students took advantage of that and did not show up," said Mr. Stefanidis. Conflicting schedules between students and the yearbook program was another problem.

The staff used an internet-based program to edit the yearbook and, according to the staff, it is quite easy to work with. Members of the yearbook staff would enter their username, and password, and job number to access the pages of the yearbook. The website is maintained by Jostens. Inc. "The program is very similar to Microsoft Word in terms of use," said Mr. Stefanidis. The fact that the yearbook and program was online allowed for flexibility when the yearbook staff chose to edit the yearbook. The staff could access the yearbook and edit the layout from virtually any computer. "One problem that we encountered though was finding computers that had the macromedia photo uploading program. So while we were able to edit the layout, we were limited in uploading and adding photos," said Mr. Stefanidis.

The layout of the yearbook started in December 2006 and the completion deadline for publication was March 26. Upon completion, the layout was sent to Jostens, a seller of class rings and publisher of yearbooks. There will be 160 individual yearbooks available to seniors and others interested in purchasing a copy. Seniors who paid their senior dues will automatically get a copy of the yearbook. Other students and staff who would like to purchase a yearbook should see Mr. Vega. The cost is $70.

Credits Students Need to Graduate

by Raiza Izquierdo

Graduating from high school is a major goal for most students. Yet how many students know what it really takes to graduate?

To graduate, students need 44 credits for a regular high school diploma, but for the CTE endorsed diploma, which students at Queens Voc are supposed to earn, students need 56 credits. Credits are earned by semester.

Students need 8 credits for English, 8 credits for social studies, 6 credits for math, 6 credits for science, 7 credits for physical education, and 1 for health. Two foreign language credits are also needed, but because Queens Voc does not offer classes in foreign languages, students are assigned a two-part independent study Spanish project to earn their credits, unless they took and passed a foreign language test in junior high school. Additionally, one credit is required for art and another credit is required for music. Some students might have earned music or art credits in ninth grade, but the students who didn't must complete independent study projects to earn their credits.

Students who receive the local high school diploma are students who didn't pass their shop classes or super seniors who came back to school to make up classes. Not only do students need the required credits to graduate, but they also need to pass various Regents exams. For a Regents diploma, students need to pass with a 65 or above on 5 Regents exams: Global, U.S. History, English, Math A or Math B, and any one science. If students want to earn the Advanced Regents diploma, they must pass 8 Regents exams such as two math, three sciences, Global, U.S. History, and English with 65 or above.

SSBT students have a monster day at UTI.

Plumbing & EI Take a Trip to UTI

by Renato Lulaj

Daryl Villavicencio, a 2005 graduate student of Queens Voc, recently graduated from UTI. According to Daryl, UTI is a one year automotive technology program consisting of 17 courses covering the fundamentals of modern cars. UTI is 70% hands-on and 30% theory for auto mechanics.

UTI, Universal Technical Institute, specializes in mechanical studies. UTI offers courses in three major subjects, diesel, collision, and automotive mechanic.

Daryl earned the FACT (Ford Accelerated Credential Training) certificate. He is currently attending the Mercedes Benz ELITE program in Orlando, Florida. The 16-week program covers bumper to bumper skills through hands-on learning. Daryl will earn Mercedes Benz credits in service maintenance, diagnosis, and repair, and will receive the Mercedes Benz Elite certificate. Once he graduates, Daryl is guaranteed a job at a Mercedes Benz dealership.

UTI has an alliance with many auto dealers including Mercedes Benz, Audi, Volkswagen, BMW, Volvo, Porsche, Toyota, Jaguar, International, and Ford. It also has courses for marine vehicles. A technician can earn a mechanic's certificate in any of these companies and work for their dealers. The dealers offer free courses to students who meet their standards.

About 40 senior electrical installation students and senior plumbing students went on a trip to UTI on January 9th. UTI even paid for a private bus to take the students. UTI also provided the students with hot dogs, chips, and soda. While it was about a three-hour ride each way, according to Mr. Maloney, one of the teachers who went, it was worth going. Mr. Maloney said it was a good opportunity for the students to see in person a post secondary technical school and expose students to that type of career. "It was a beautiful facility," Mr. Maloney said.

Alex Pulla, Raul Brunet, and Patrick Williams were a few of the many students who joined Mr. Maloney on the trip. After the trip, Alex said he thinks "UTI is a great school for students who are interested in mechanics." To Raul, "UTI was a fun experience and it's a good school for people who are very interested in cars." Patrick agreed. "It was a very interesting school," he said, adding that he would like to visit again sometime. According to Patrick, he is interested in going to UTI because of their mechanic technology program.

The students enjoyed the tour around the institute because they got to see many different cars and also a monster truck which was a fan favorite.

Never Too Old For Advice

by Volodymyr Sulyk

Advisory became part of the curriculum at Queens Voc last year. In each grade level, teachers can focus on a curriculum provided by Ms. Vittor, or teachers and students may develop their own topics. According to Ms. Vila, "some students request Regents help as one of the topics."

All ninth graders take Freshman Seminar as their advisory class. According to Ms. Vittor, the purpose of Freshman Seminar "is to ease student transition from junior high school to high school." It should also "help students with decision making," she said. According to Ms. Radovich, the teachers use 2 curricula programs. The first, Overcoming Obstacles, focuses on "conflict resolution, goal setting, decision making, and personal growth," she said. The second program, Ms. Radovich said, is "the Dream Job Essay Competition provided by *USA Today*." It focuses on career exploration and encourages students to explore different career paths. According to Ms. Radovich, in the Dream Job Essay Competition, all students in Freshman Seminar write an essay based on what their dream job would be. "Two students are chosen and participate in a job shadow that is related to the career they wrote about," she said

According to Ms. Vittor "students in tenth grade advisory focus on career exploration and a career profile." Eleventh grade advisory focuses on creation of a personal profile.

"Students in my advisory classes talk about their dreams and what they want to be in the future," said Ms. Vila.

In practice, advisory is used to help students, without a step-by-step curriculum. Ms. Vila, who has tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade advisory students, said, "students in my class learn how to communicate with each other to complete a given task." And Ms. Himmel, who teaches an advisory class that has tenth and eleventh graders, said that "students in my advisory get to talk about different issues and get to explore different jobs that are available within their major." In Ms. Himmel's advisory, students work as a group on communication skills, creativity, and discuss what goals students want to achieve. Ms. Himmel also uses this time to advise students to build respect for themselves and others.

Advisory establishes a calm environment where students can discuss their problems and help one another. Students also examine careers and career paths, and discuss with other students different career opportunities.

Many teachers conduct educational games and school-related activities, giving students ample time to communicate with each other. "Students in my advisory classes talk about their dreams and what they want to be in the future," said Ms. Vila. Teachers can also help students improve reading comprehension and recall. According to Ms. Vila, "students are able to practice and develop these skills by reading something, then responding to what they read."

Loved that Dance

by Diomedes Gonzalez

Queens Voc's second Valentine's Day dance was as much of a hit as the first. Last year, with the opening of the new wing, Queens Voc was able to hold dances in the school cafeteria.

This year Queens Voc students were able to bring outside guests to the dance. "Being that it was the first year guests from other schools were allowed to attend, everything went well and all the planning and preparation for the dance paid off," said Estefania Garcia, senior class president.

Students and guests enjoy the dance.

"The guests behaved extraordinarily well and the students who organized the dance did a great job from hiring the DJ to putting up decorations," added Mr. Vega.

The sold-out dance was held on Friday, February 9, from 6pm to 10pm. Upon entering the lunchroom, attendees were given necklaces decorated with hearts.

The music played at the dance was bachata, merengue, tipico, salsa, hip hop, reggae, reggeaton, and techno. People seemed to dance to all styles of music, although at one point, no one was dancing and the DJ stopped the music because everyone was "hugging the wall." He proceeded to play the old hit "Macarena," which led students to get back to dancing and enjoying themselves. A few dance battles took place on the dance floor with a "chicken noodle soup" and "walk it out" dance-off. "This dance was more successful because students felt more comfortable with their best friends from other schools or boyfriend or girlfriend as well," said Mr. Vega. The dance was a success and many students have been hoping for another dance to take place later on in the year. Mr. Rodriguez, a chaperone at the dance, said "All the students were well-behaved. They were very mature while dancing and showed they enjoyed themselves."

Tickets for the dance were sold in the room 143. The cost of the tickets for SO members was $3 each, and for non-SO members and guests tickets cost $4 each. The dance was sold out, but only 137 of the 175 students and guests attended. "I loved the fact we were allowed to bring our friends from other schools to come and celebrate with us," said Ivana Nunez.

Foodfest Success

by Jelissa Peña

The senior food festival helps reduce the costs of senior prom tickets. This year's second senior food festival was held on Wednesday, March 28, during periods 4 through 8 in the auditorium. A plate of food cost $4, which consisted of 2 entrees and 2 side dishes, and drinks were an additional $1.

Seniors raised over $1,400 at the food festival in November, and raised an additional $1,000 in March. The money raised is used to reduce the price of prom tickets. So far, prom tickets have been reduced by $15, decreasing the price of a ticket from $90 to $75. Only the first 140 people who buy prom tickets will receive the discount.

Jennifer Cabrera, senior class vice-president, said, "It was unfortunate that the food festival ended 6th period, it was too early. It would have been a better event if more people kept their word about bringing dishes." A lot of seniors promised Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, that they were going to bring in a dish, but many just brought in various types of rice, and all that was left at the end was rice. Yet Yolanis Barros, the senior class treasurer, was pleased with the outcome of the food festival. "I think it was successful, and we were able to raise $1,000, which will go toward the prom. I loved the Irish meatballs and the chocolate cupcakes," she said.

Yara Diaz said that while she expected it to be better, the food was good. "The best dishes there were the lasagna and the pastelitos. It was delicious, the best food I've tasted in a long time."

Commentaries Commentaries Commentaries

School ODs on our PSPs

Confiscation of electronics over the top

by Jennifer Cabrera

Electronic devices have taken over Queens Voc. Many students at Queens Voc have a variety of electronic devices. The problem is that these students do not know when to use these items, often using them at the wrong times and wrong places, such as in school during class.

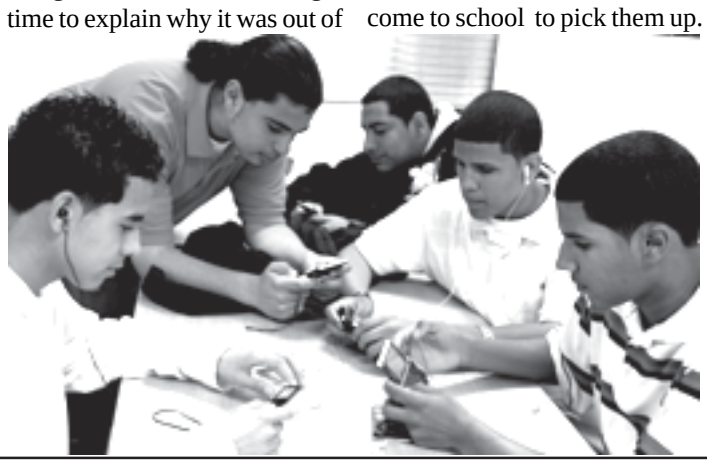
Nowadays, many students walk around Queens Voc's hallways with their heads facing down and fingers glued to a small keyboard or bobbing their heads to their loud music from their I-pods. Many of these students' favorite gadgets are I-pods, cell phones and sidekicks, and Nintendo PSPs.

"I think that this is no place for electronics," said Mr. Garofano. Cell phones should be used in case of an emergency only. "It's understandable to have cell phones, but they should be turned off and in your bag," he added. The principal, dean, teachers, and staff support the policy of electronic devices not being used in school. Usually the deans and administrators take them away immediately. The school policy is that if an electronic device is taken away in school, it will only be returned when a parent or guardian comes to pick it up.

Many electronic devices are taken away daily by teachers, deans, and sometimes from Mr. Vela and the principal, Ms.Vittor, herself.

Recently, Mr. Rivera took my cell phone away when I took it out to see the time. He instinctively thought I was using it and I did not even get time to explain why it was out of my bag to begin with. The next day my mom had to lose a day of work just to make time to come pick up my cell phone. Since I was not on the phone, I should have gotten a chance to explain why it was out, instead of it just being taken away from me and making my mom lose a day of work to pick it up.

Instead of first taking students' electronics away, we should at least get a warning, or a letter home informing parents that their kids are using those devices in school. While taking these electronic devices away is a good way to teach kids not to use them in class, the confiscated electronics should be given back at the end of the day, instead of making parents come to school to pick them up.



Independent Projects:

Shouldn't be left for senior year

by Keon Badger

Independent study projects are too much to do in senior year. Independent study projects are projects most seniors have to complete to graduate.

There are three independent study projects, Spanish, music, and art. Some seniors don't have to complete all three projects because they previously took a class in high school or passed a foreign language test in their middle school. Most of us, however, do have to complete these projects. But why should we seniors suffer because the school didn't get a teacher for these subjects?

As seniors we are very busy, applying for college, participating in senior activities, preparing for SATs, taking Regents, writing essays, and doing projects in our regular classes. Some of the independent study projects have three major parts.

The art project, for example, has three parts with three different due dates. The independent study projects are very difficult. The project requires pictures, drawing, and painting in all three parts. It's a lot to complete, but can be done.

Many seniors feel the independent study projects should have been given throughout our high school years and not given to us all in our last year. The school could have given us classes instead, to avoid us suffering.

Although the independent study projects are a problem to seniors, they are also very important. Without independent study projects, we seniors will miss a credit we need to graduate.

There is a list on the third floor next to cosmo room 344, with names of the students who need to complete independent study projects and what projects they have to complete.

Seniors should make sure they complete the projects they need.

And the school should change the system. It's unfair to seniors.

Feedback: Our Readers Speak Out

by Rayvan Walker

An English class and an Advisory class sent letters with comments, suggestions, constructive criticism, and praise to Mr. Schimenz's journalism class, about the last edition of the school newspaper.

Cory Major believes that the school newspaper in general covered all the major topics in the school. On the other hand, Michael Montefusco believes that there should be more articles about freshmen and sophomores and that the front page needs to be improved. Yuri Gomez complimented the *Vocational Voice* staff as a whole. "Overall, I thought that every article was well-written and organized. Everyone did a great job," she wrote.

"Graffiti... means more rules & no access to anything," wrote Sky Ferguson

Four students responded to "Ring Ring Don't Worry: It's a False Alarm," by Anadia Diaz. They agreed that pulling the fire alarm is dangerous and childish. Richard Gonzalez wrote, "I think the school is doing a great job, the extra security plan made a great change." All four students wrote that they were concerned that one day there is going to be a real fire, and no one will move because they expect Ms. Vittor or Mr. Vela to come on the loud speaker and say it's a false alarm. Stephanie Rosario believes that another way to solve the problem of the fire alarms being pulled is to put a special liquid on the fire alarms. Whoever pulls the fire alarm will end up with blue hands, she wrote.

The advice column "Ask Niecy," by Denise Espinal, was a big hit in the past edition of the school newspaper. Karolin Marte wrote, "Niecy is so cool because she's not scared of telling the guilty cheater how it is." Another student, Neha Sharma, likes the fact that people reading the newspaper can relate to the relationship problems. Neha wrote, "the advice she gave was wonderful, it was a little harsh, but it was awesome." Jose Vargas wrote that Denise Espinal "gave her opinion and gave a good reason on why to take her advice."

Six students wrote about Arjenis Abreu's commentary, "No Time To Be On Time." They too agreed that three minutes is not enough time between classes. Chelsea Spitzschuh wrote "the crowded hallways and stairs don't help people get to class on time." Daniyah Ahmed agreed. She wrote that "the time should be extended two or three minutes so that it will give students more time to be on time." Stacey Sumulong doesn't think three minutes is enough time because, on Mondays, she has 8th period gym and then goes to Global History on the fourth floor, she said. According to her, it gets very tiring.

Two students responded to Gabriel Ortiz's "Time To Clean Up." Karol Sabota disagrees with Gabriel's article because, she wrote, "not all students are responsible for the mess in the lunch room." But Ruben Ortiz agrees with Gabriel that the students are the problem. "All students should clean up after themselves and if they don't then they shouldn't be served," he wrote.

Stephanie Baique's "Crowded Hallways Need To Be Addressed" received two responses from students. Mark Fremista wrote that the crowded hallways are another reason why students are late to class. Wendi Fernandez wrote that there are not enough school safety agents in the hallways and that is why students cut class and vandalize the school.

Daniel Medina's "Random Search Sought Graffiti Paraphernalia" received responses from two students also. "Graffiti is art" Daniel Serna wrote "and if the principal, vice principals and deans want it to be stopped, let it be shown as art." But Sky Ferguson disagreed with Daniel Serna. "Graffiti on the walls is upsetting," he wrote, "because all it means is more rules, and no access to anything.' Sky is referring to how all but one boys' bathroom in the school is locked.

"...not all students are responsible for the mess in the lunch room," wrote Karol Sabota

Cecil Whiley complimented Jelissa Pena's Italian recipe, the crock-pot lasagna. "It was delicious and the Italian spices made it taste extra good," Cecil wrote. Joti Mondal wrote that he believes the junior shop profiles give the ninth and tenth graders a vivid view of the future.

We received a large number of letters from students who did not include their names. It is *Vocational Voice* policy not to print anonymous letters or anonymous information. What you have to say is important to us, so please remember to include your name on anything given to the *Vocational Voice* staff.

The journalism class thanks everyone who took the time to write to the staff of *Vocational Voice*. We encourage you to write because we enjoy reading your comments, suggestions, praise and constructive criticism.

Letters to the *Vocational Voice* may be placed in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the Main Office or email them to VocVoice@aol.com.

The journalism class thanks Mr. Burke and his classes for taking time to write to us. We would love more letters from other students. We were saddened that our class didn't receive any feedback from teachers or administrators.

Please let us know how you think we are doing, and what we could do to improve the school newspaper.

Editorials

Career Day

The point of going to a vocational school, now referred to as a career & technical education (CTE) school, is to learn a marketable skill that will allow us to enter the workforce or go to college.

Our annual Career Days should be exciting for us not just because they break up our routine of going to classes and taking notes, but because we get to hear from the many professionals who come to our school to guide us on our journey from school to work.

We anticipate that Queens Voc's sixth annual Career Day will be exciting and educational. Thanks to Ms. Vittor and all those who worked hard to make it so.

Clocks

Some time ago, an editorial in this newspaper praised the installation of a new clock system. Now, however, it's apparent that the clock system is not working so well. It needs to be fixed. Dozens of clocks display the wrong time. You've got to admit that it's past "annoying." And when we pull out our cell phones--who wears watches nowadays?--they get confiscated because we are "using" them.

The fact that our clock system does seem to be getting any attention, along with the other construction problems that have not been resolved, can be seen as a sign that settling for "good enough" shortchanges everyone.

Announcements

And speaking about attention, it isn't everyday that we are asked to stand, say the Pledge of Allegiance, and hear about what's going on in our school. We know that everybody's busy. Because of our block scheduling, Mr. Vega is often teaching during the announcement period. Mr. Vela is busy with his many tasks and responsibilities. Even Ms. Vittor has taken a turn recently making announcements.

Announcements are important to get news to students each day. Many of us don't even realize the information we are not getting.

Perhaps there is a way to solve the problem. Students should be part of the solution. Allowing students to make morning announcements will relieve some of the pressure on the adults, while letting us students do more for our school. Think about it.

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

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

Mr. Schimenz
Main Office

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

Principal's Message

QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
Denise Vittor, Principal

I attend conferences throughout the year where other High School principals, superintendents and industry representatives meet. When I describe our programs, our courses and our school, I always get the same response, "I wish I had those opportunities when I was in high school."

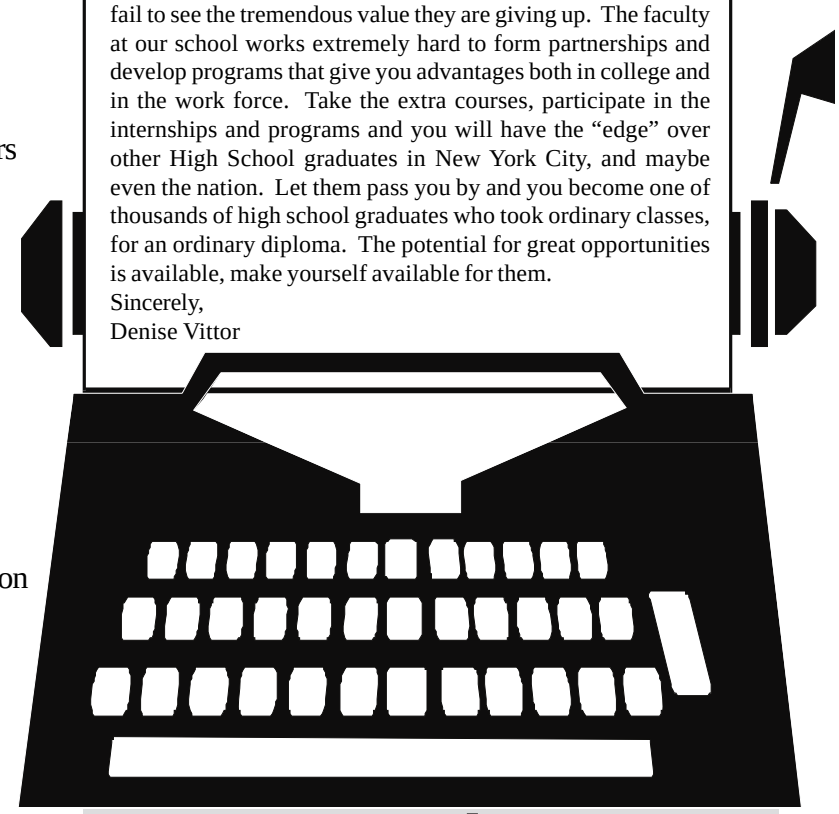
People outside of our school are amazed at our offerings: academic regents classes, advanced placement classes, honors classes, CTE sequences, College Now courses, internships, industry-recognized certifications and apprenticeship programs and tutoring if you need it. In addition, we have PM school courses and after school Regents prep courses. This school offers you so many opportunities to prepare for the future, to prepare for success. How many of you are actually taking advantage of the tremendous opportunities you are being offered?

Students who graduate from our school could potentially leave Queens Vocational & Technical High School with 12 college credits, a Regents Diploma, industry certification, and a job and/or apprenticeship in June, if they take advantage of the opportunities available. Not many schools in New York City offer it all – Queens Vocational & Technical H.S. does!

So next time you are programmed by your guidance counselor to take AP statistics, or Photonics, consider yourself lucky. The course is worth 3-4 college credits and is free. When CS2K – Construction Skills 2000– asks for your application, complete it. Thousands of New Yorkers want to become apprentices in the construction trades and cannot. You can because you attend and pass your classes at Queens Vocational & Technical High School.

Many students let opportunities pass them by because they fail to see the tremendous value they are giving up. The faculty at our school works extremely hard to form partnerships and develop programs that give you advantages both in college and in the work force. Take the extra courses, participate in the internships and programs and you will have the "edge" over other High School graduates in New York City, and maybe even the nation. Let them pass you by and you become one of thousands of high school graduates who took ordinary classes, for an ordinary diploma. The potential for great opportunities is available, make yourself available for them.

Sincerely,
Denise Vittor



Sports Shorts

Handball

Queens Voc's handball team, led by Coach Maloney, has garnered a playoff berth for the third year in a row. At the end of April, the team had a record of 7 – 3, with only 2 matches remaining.

Included in their victories was a win over Bryant HS, which had been 38 – 0 over the last three years. Coach Maloney attributed the team's success to the fine leadership skills of seniors David Stanojev and Leo Garcia, who have helped the rookies develop their skills. "They motivate their teammates," said the coach.

JV Baseball

Junior varsity baseball is underway, with more games scheduled than ever. Coach Garofano also has a bigger roster than in the past. "We're looking to compete well this year against Cardozo and Bayside," said the optimistic coach, "We've had a lot of practices and the team is really coming together."

Assisting the coach again this year is senior Patrick Williams. "Pat's been tremendously helpful. There's a lot to coaching a team but with Pat, I know a lot of the work will get done. "But we've got good kids and that helps," the coach said.

Useful Tips for College Essays

by Jacqueline Concepcion

Writing a college essay can be daunting, but don't be discouraged. The college essay gives students the chance to explain themselves to the admission committee and allows the committee to get a sense of the student's perception, talents, personality, and so much more. By following the tips below, you will be on your way to writing a great college essay.

Many colleges give you the option to discuss a topic of your choice or suggest a topic such as a domestic or international issue. If you would like to write a personal essay, start with tip #1. If you would like to write your essay using one of the college's suggested topics, then skip to tip #3.

Tip #1: Before writing the autobiographical essay, begin by creating a list of your strengths and characteristics. Then, create a second list backing up the strengths and characteristics with examples such as academic achievements. In addition, ask friends or relatives what your strengths are. Once you have finished the list, you should have an idea of what your strengths and characteristics are.

Tip #2: If you are writing an autobiographical piece, the topic should allow you to demonstrate your characteristics and experiences and simultaneously address your desire to attend the college you're applying to.

Tip #3: If writing about a topic the college has suggested, make sure to research the topic. Gather a few facts and incorporate them into your essay. If asked, take a position on the subject. For example, do you oppose or support the war in Iraq? Remember to answer any question asked of you in your essay.

Now it is time to begin writing the essay.

Tip #4: The introduction should give the reader an idea of what your essay is about. The body should contain evidence that supports your main idea. Use narration and events to demonstrate rather than tell. Last but not least, your conclusion should summarize your essay and re-state your main idea.

Tip #5: Make sure to proofread and edit your essay. Ask a couple of people to read it and comment on your essay. This article is based on information from www.collegeboard.com "Three steps to writing a great essay" & from www.quintcareers.com/college_application_essay.html "Writing the successful college application essay."

Scholarship Opportunities

by Fernando Méndez

Scholarship opportunities are available for students who want to further their education by going to college.

On average, college-educated workers earn more than non-educated workers, yet many students don't realize that they can attend college without paying a lot of money, or not paying at all.

It is easy to apply for scholarships. There are different ways of getting scholarships, but in all cases, the applicants should be persistent, apply on time, and do what is asked.

"Start as early as 9th grade. There are scholarships that let students apply in the 9th grade, and the money will be waiting for you," said Ms. Basirico, the college advisor. One scholarship that lets students apply before becoming seniors is from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Ms. Basirico said that every week, she receives at least two scholarship applications. Students should see Ms. Basirico in room 143 to find out about these different scholarships. But students can also search for scholarships online. Websites such as FastWeb.com can be helpful.

"There are scholarships that will cover expenses such as books and even housing while going to college," said Ms. Basirico, the college advisor. She advises students to look into scholarships and apply for every one you are eligible for. You have nothing to lose, she said.

Volunteer community service is recommended because "When applying, it shows that the student is willing to help other people and it shows cooperation and responsibility beyond the world of high school," Ms. Basirico said.

Keep in mind that above all, your academic average counts.

Movie Reviews

by Jelissa Peña

The Messengers ★★★★

The Solomon family moved from Chicago to a creepy country house near run-down Sunflower Farm in North Dakota. The daughter, Jess (Kristen Stewart), and her toddler brother, Ben, started hearing strange sounds and seeing dead people. Ben had lost his ability to talk after a car accident he and Jess had a while back, and the only way he communicates with Jess is leading her into the noises. Jesse thought about telling her parents about the situation, but she was afraid of what they would think of her. When she finally decided to explain to her parents what was going on, they thought she was crazy and took her to a psychiatrist.

It was really surprising how one big event leads to another in this violent and horrifying movie. It's like a puzzle, all the pieces have to be put together to find out the big mystery.

This movie is a bit frightening at times, and in the end, everything makes sense.

Epic Movie ★★

Epic movie is a variety of ten movies combined into one comedy film. This comedy film combined Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Borat, The Chronicles of Narnia, Pirates of the Caribbean, Superman Returns, The Da Vinci Code, Nacho Libre, and Snakes on a Plane, X-Men, and Harry Potter.

This move is about four orphans who grew up together. One of them was on a plane and was attacked by snakes, the other one was a ward of a museum curator, the third one was a Mexican who liked to wrestle, and the last one came from a community, called the X community. They all decided to visit the chocolate factory in Gnarnia, which doesn't produce chocolate, but poop. The four of them went into a magical wardrobe, which led them to Gnarnia. They all fell under an evil witch (Jennifer Coolidge), known as the Queen of Gnarnia. The four of them have to find a way to bring back peace in Gnarnia, and the only way to do it is to join forces with pirates, wizards, and a lion.

While the purpose of the film is to make people laugh, it's really not all that funny. At 1 hour and 15 minutes, this was the shortest movie I've ever seen. I don't recommend it because it's not really amusing; unless you thought Scary Movie 1-4 were funny and adventurous.

Norbit ★★★★★

Norbit is one the funniest movies I've seen in a long time. Growing up as an orphan and raised by Asians, Norbit (Eddie Murphy). He grew up to be a respectful man. He had a best friend named Kate (Thandie Newton), who moved away when they were young kids. As the years went by, Norbit married a rude, strict woman named Resputia (Eddie Murphy).

Norbit never seemed happy with his wife because she was fat, and she took advantage of him by cheating on him with her dance instructor. Years later, Norbit's best friend, Kate, came back to visit. Resputia got jealous and hit Norbit all the time when he saw Kate.

The funniest part of the movie was when Kate, the orphans, Norbit, and his wife went to a water park. Resputia went down a water slide, went through a wall, landed in a kiddy pool, and cleared out all the water from the pool.

This movie had me laughing from beginning to end, and I would pay to watch it again. There were some parts that were boring, but there was always something to surprise you. This was one silly and funny film. No one should get offended by this movie, since it's mainly based on a fat woman.

Kayla:
Karate Kid

by Kelvin Smartt

Known for breaking boards in half, Kayla White is a senior majoring in cosmetology at Queens Voc. She has been practicing Shotokan, a Japanese form of karate, for 13 years.

"I was brought up in karate as a young child. My brother and I are both involved in karate where we train our bodies and mind to keep physically healthy." Kayla, currently a brown belt, is in training for a black belt. She attends classes at Rochdale Community Center. There are 6 different levels of belts. The white belt, which is the beginner's level, is followed by yellow and green, the intermediate level, then purple, brown, and black, the advanced belt.

To advance in belt ranks, an evaluation is given by the Sensei, the karate teacher, who tests each student on skills and maturity. The evaluation consists of meditation, self defense, Kata (a demonstration of fighting techniques), and shadow boxing (the demonstration of movement).

"Kata has made me more conscious of my surroundings and has built up my self-esteem," said Kayla. "It has trained me to be a better person inside and out."

Kayla is a great fighter.

Kayla participated in the Queens Voc talent show last year where she demonstrated her skills with the help of her brother and father. "I have not competed in any competitions but I have done many demonstrations for my church and community library," said Kayla.

Kayla's favorite Kata is Bassai Dai, a fighting technique used to demonstrate strength and stability.

Senior Shop Profiles

by Kelvin Smartt

Pointing out successful students is a task many teachers enjoy. Teachers of senior shop classes were each asked to select a student who has done well in their class and deserves to be recognized for working hard. The selected students were asked:

1. What do you like most about your field?
2. What made you interested in the field?
3. How have you benefited from taking four years of shop?
4. What improvements have you noticed in your shop class from freshmen year to senior year?
5. What do you plan to do after high school?

Plumbing – Mr. McCarthy

Kevin Handy

1. I like working with my hands and taking on new challenges that will give me the experience to be successful in life.
2. I have a friend who is in the field and I find what he does to be very interesting.
3. I have learned a lot about plumbing and how to solder copper pipes.
4. We have more work space and more machines to work with.
5. I hope to get into the plumbing union local 1 and make a career out of it.

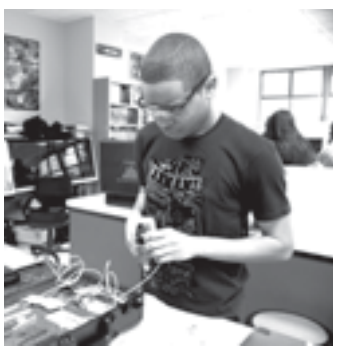
Cosmetology – Ms. Quartuccio

Raydilkys Reyes

1. I like that we are able to be creative using different techniques and that we are able to learn many things that professionals do in the outside world. Especially that we are able to get our license at the end of it all.
2. I enjoy doing hair and creating different hairstyles.
3. I have learned many things that I didn't know how to do, like perms, highlights, finger waves, and etc.
4. We have a new Cosmetology room with better blow-dryers. Our equipment and products are more advanced and nicer to use.
5. I plan to attend college to become a nurse, and then open up my own salon.

Electronics – Mr. Ali

Terel Watson



1. I like the fact that it prepares you for a field that's highly in demand.
2. I was always interested in electronics and how things work so I wanted to learn more about it.
3. I am able to use what I learn in electronics in my everyday living like fixing my computer.
4. We were able to get a new room along with new equipment that helps us to better learn electronic engineering.
5. I plan to use some of the knowledge that I've learned in the electronics class to go to college to become a physician's assistant.

C-Tech – Mr. Rodriguez

Kacy James

1. I like that technology keeps advancing.
2. The different features and all the variety of things you can do on a computer.
3. I have learned new and different skills needed to operate a fully functional computer.
4. We have better equipment like the new computers.
5. I plan to go to college.

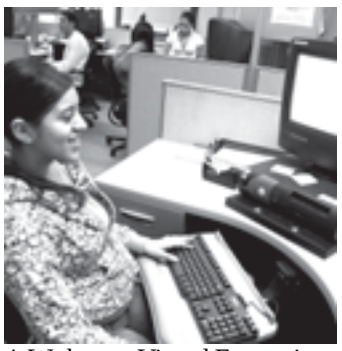
Electrical Installation – Mr. Maloney

Volodymyr Sulyk

1. I like figuring out how to wire and troubleshoot different circuits.
2. I was fascinated with electronics and thought that I would like to try something new.
3. I have learned how to wire, connect, and troubleshoot different circuits.
4. We have a new shop room with better equipment.
5. I hope to get into Local 3, the electrical union, or work with MTA.

Business – Virtual Enterprise – Mr. Mugan

Ariel Rios



1. You have a variety of careers to choose from like business management, accounting, and sales and marketing.
2. I like the structural pattern of accounting and the amount of money accountants make.
3. I have learned good business skills and it has also taught me how to create resumes.
4. We have a Virtual Enterprise room filled with computers. It gives me a real sense of the business world.
5. I plan to attend college and major in accounting.

Business – Web Design – Mr. Garcia

Lizbeth Colon

1. I like the fact that I can create and design my own webpage.
2. I have always been interested in web design since I was a young child. I always thought it was interesting how web pages were created.
3. I am able to use my business skills in everything that I do. I have also become a better speaker.
4. We have a better business environment which is suitable for learning and understanding the basics of the business world.
5. I plan to go to college to major in web design.

Cosmetology : Mr. Grochala

Diana Espinal

1. I like that a lot of the work is hands on and you get to make people feel happy.
2. The different techniques and ways that you can do hair. For me, it's a form of art.
3. I have learned the proper techniques of blowing out hair and coloring it.
4. We have more space to work in and we have better equipment.
5. Go to college and pursue a career in criminal justice.

did you know?

compiled by Elbel Estrella

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

- The term 007 was derived from 20007, the home zip code of many Washington, D.C. agents.
- Jupiter spins so fast that there is a new sunrise nearly every ten hours.
- No only child has been a U.S. president.
- The average person makes about 1,140 telephone calls each year.
- Before 1687, clocks were made with only an hour hand.
- A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100 miles an hour.
- Despite its hump, a camel has a straight spine.
- The number of times a cricket chirps in 15 seconds, plus 37, will give you the current air temperature.
- Giraffes can lick their own eyes.
- A Crocodile cannot move its tongue.
- Long Island is the largest island in the continental U.S.
- The world's biggest pyramid is not in Egypt, but in Mexico.
- The first person in the U.S. arrested for speeding was a New York City cab driver.
- A pigeon's feathers are heavier than its bones.
- The average American will eat 35,000 cookies during his/her lifetime.

What Do QV Students Know?

by Raiza Izquierdo

Here at Queens Vocational and Technical High School we have a diverse learning environment. We asked several students questions to test their knowledge.

The wrong answers are in italics.

Students were asked:

1. What famous document begins "When in the course of human events…?"
2. What planet is the same size as our moon?
3. What's the only metal that is not a solid at room temperature?
4. How many of the planets have moons?
5. How many U.S. states are named after a president?
6. What's the most common element found in the universe?
7. What T-word is defined in geometry as "a straight line that touches a curve, but continues on with crossing it?
8. What geometric shape forms the hole that fits an Allen wrench?
9. What planet is the hottest?
10. What song was the Navy band playing at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked?
11. What is the atomic number for Hydrogen?

Joel Tabares 411

1. Declaration of Independence
2. *Jupiter*
3. Mercury
4. *Four*
5. One
6. *Oxygen*
7. *Trigonometry*
8. Hexagon
9. Venus
10. *The Flight of The Valcaries*
11. *Sixteen*

Leidy Sierra 421

1. *The Bill of Rights*
2. *Pluto*
3. *Iron*
4. *Eight*
5. One
6. Hydrogen
7. *Triangle*
8. *Octagon*
9. *Sun*
10. The Star Spangle Banner
11. One

Junior Perez 411

1. *The Great Depression*
2. *Pluto*
3. Mercury
4. *Eight*
5. *None*
6. *Carbon*
7. Tangent
8. Hexagon
9. Venus
10. *Mi Corazoncito*
11. *Two*

Josue Avila 351

1. *Bill of Rights*
2. *Pluto*
3. Mercury
4. *Eight*
5. One
6. *Oxygen*
7. Tangent
8. Hexagon
9. *Mars*
10. The Star Spangled Banner
11. *Sixteen*

Joel Moreaux 421

1. *The Constitution*
2. Mercury
3. *Copper*
4. *All planets*
5. *Ten*
6. *Water*
7. *Trigonometry*
8. Hexagon
9. *Jupiter*
10. *The Pledge of Alliance*
11. One

Victor Varela 155

1. *Twelfth Amendment*
2. *Neptune*
3. *Zinc*
4. *Five*
5. One
6. *Air*
7. Tangent
8. *Octagon*
9. *Mercury*
10. The Star Spangle Banner
11. One

Dayana Jaramillo 301

1. *Bill of Rights*
2. *Jupiter*
3. Mercury
4. *All planets*
5. *Three*
6. *Oxygen*
7. *Triangle*
8. Hexagon
9. *Mercury*
10. The Star Spangled Banner
11. One

Ivana Nuñez 201

1. *Bill of Rights*
2. *Jupiter*
3. Mercury
4. *All planets*
5. *Two*
6. *Water*
7. Tangent
8. Hexagon
9. *Mercury*
10. The Star Spangled Banner
11. One

Rosario Castillo 113

1. Declaration of Independence
2. *Jupiter*
3. Mercury
4. *Six*
5. *Eight*
6. *Water*
7. Tangent
8. Hexagon
9. *Mars*
10. *This Land Is My Land*
11. *Five*

Veronica Sierra 111

1. Declaration of Independence
2. *Pluto*
3. Mercury
4. *All planets*
5. *Three*
6. *Air*
7. Tangent
8. *Circle*
9. *Mars*
10. Star Spangled Banner
11. *Five*

Who's That Prez?

by Gaochao Huang

1. A US coin was issued to honor the 200th birthday of one of the forefathers. He never attended college and he had only 1 tooth.
2. He was the first defeated vice presidential candidate to be elected president. He was related by blood or marriage to 11 former presidents.
3. Name the eight presidents who were born in Britain.
4. He was the tallest president of all the presidents.
5. Name the four presidents who were assassinated.
6. Name the three presidents who died on July 4.
7. He was the first president who was born in America.
8. Which president never got married?
9. This president and first lady were the first to install a library, bathtub, and kitchen stove in the White House.
10. Which two presidents are buried in Arlington National Cemetery?

Answers

1. George Washington
2. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
3. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, and William Harrison
4. Abraham Lincoln
5. Abraham Lincoln, James Abram Garfield, William McKinley, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy
6. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe
7. Martin Van Buren
8. James Buchanan
9. Millard Fillmore
10. John Fitzgerald Kennedy and William Howard Taft

Who's The Teacher

by Raiza Izquierdo and Yolanis Barros

Can you figure out who these Queens Voc teachers are?

Teacher 1

This person is a graduate of Queens Voc and has been teaching for years. Now he is in charge of school activities and is an EI teacher. He wears his same Timberlands for the last 4 years. He is known as "Superman" and has been teaching for 18 years.

Teacher 2

This person is new to Queens Voc. He is a social studies teacher and is in charge of the yearbook committee. He is a fan of football and his jersey number is 32. He enjoys doing crossword puzzles everyday.

Teacher 3

This person an is EI teacher. An outdoors person who likes sports, he is a big Yankee fan and likes playing football. He plays for a team called "The Bad Boyz." To his students he is known as "The Gremlin."

Teacher 4

This person graduated from Queens Voc. He is classy and mature for his age. He is articulate and is very professional. He prefers listening to Spanish and American alternative music. Has a passion for technology and has been teaching for 7 years.

Teacher 5

This teacher knows styling. She's been married for 34 years. She has two children, one girl and one boy. She has been teaching at Queens Voc, her alma mater, since 1999 for 7 years. Queens Voc is her Alma Mata. She volunteers to help mentally and physically challenged children.

Teacher 6

This social studies teacher graduated from Townsend Harris High School and is currently finishing his Masters degree. He served in the army in the JFK Special Warfare School. He has played ice hockey since he was a kid, and does not like X-Box or Playstation, but plays video games on his computer.

Teacher 7

This cosmetology teacher graduated from the New York Institute of Technology and has been a teacher at Queens Voc for two and a half years. She owned a manufacturing business for 15 years before she started teaching. She loves sailing on her sailboat, camping, fishing, and anything that has to do with the beach. She cliams to make "the best" Spanokopita (spinach pie).

Teacher 8

He is 6'2, has blonde hair, and usually wears a tie. He's usually speeding through the hallways to get to class, and really enjoys his work. He has a Masters degree in educational administration and a Bachelors degree in education. He has a good rapport with his students. He worked for some TV stars, and volunteers at an animal shelter because he really loves animals.

Answer:
Mr. Vega
Mr. Stefanis
Mr. Medez
Mr. Rodriguez
Ms. Basico
Mr. Zambrano
Mr. Ortiz
Mr. Cruz

New Tech

by Volodymyr Sulyk

Apple iPhone

Apple iPhone is a new device expected to be released this summer. iPhone will function with iTunes installed on a PC or a Mac. Two iPhone models will be offered, one model with a 4 gigabyte memory, and the other model with an 8 gigabyte memory.

iPhone's features include a mobile phone, a 3.5 inch widescreen iPod with a touch screen, internet enabled software that lets users access their email, and a web browser so users can surf the web. The iPhone has internet browsing capabilities like EDGE, GPRS, GSM Quad-band, and is WiFi capable.

The iPhone has a built in 2.0 megapixel camera for taking hi-resolution pictures. iPhone's intelligent keyboard corrects the user's mistakes when the user is typing a text message or multimedia message. It predicts the words that the user will be typing and it corrects mistakes that the user already made.

Microsoft Vista

(Operating System)

Vista, Microsoft's newest operating system, was released on January 30. Vista comes in four editions, Home Basic, Home Premium, Business, and Ultimate. All versions include Windows Defender, Firewall, and Internet Explorer 7. All editions except the Home Basic include tablet pc support and Windows Aero Desktop. Windows Media Center, DVD maker, and a movie maker that supports high definition are supported only by Home Premium and Ultimate editions.

The Ultimate edition supports the windows bit locker drive encryption process where the computer stores the information onto the hard drive with encryption automatically so an intruder can't read the files. Microsoft's Vista uses DirectX 10, the latest technology that can produce high definition images. Microsoft Vista checks the system hardware including the RAM, hardware space, CPU speed, and other devices installed on the computer. Then it configures itself to operate according to the computers specs to ensure optimal results.

Write us at VocVoice@aol.com

Sudoku Puzzle

by Estefania Garcia

Easy

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

Hard

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

Places to Visit in New York

by Estefania Garcia

New York City is filled with many spectacular and exciting attractions to visit. You can experience a night out in the town or a wonderful day in the park. Here are some attractions you should visit.

South Street Seaport

South Street Seaport, also known as a living museum, is more than just a shopping experience at the mall. There is a lot to do at South Street Seaport, is an amazing place with over 100 shops, cafes, and restaurant. The streets are filled with street performers and restaurants that offer the best seafood in town. Located down Fulton Street is a maritime museum that reflects New York City's past glory as a port town. The museum has beautiful models, prints, and paintings. You can also experience a ride on a speedboat for a wonderful tour of the area. It's a beautiful place to feast with family and friends and to be entertained with the wonderful attraction South Street Seaport has to offer.

Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.

Madame Tussaud's is one of the top attractions in New York and one of the most exciting and interesting places to visit. The wax models are true replicas of historical figures and celebrities. It offers a perfect opportunity to have your picture taken with your favorite celebrity. Included among the figures are Jennifer Lopez, Derek Jeter, Bill Clinton.

Central Park

Central Park is a pleasant place with beautiful scenery. By going to Central Park, you're experiencing nature first hand. Central Park has beautiful lakes, a zoo, an ice rink, and many other features that make it a great place to visit. For example, you can go to the lake and rent a rowboat or just sit nearby and watch the swans and ducks. The park has a big field on which people picnic and relax. The Central Park Zoo is entertaining because of its abundance of wildlife, such as polar bears, penguins, baboons, and exotic birds that you wouldn't find elsewhere (or at least shouldn't) in the city.

Another attraction that is found in Central Park is the Wollman Rink ice rink. The ice rink is seasonal, it opened on October 23, and will be open until April, 2007. The rink opens at 10am to and closes at 9pm. A lot of people enjoy the ice rink because of the good time they have with family and friends ice-skating.

Video Game Reviews

by Heriberto Velazquez

Games, games, games. So many new video games coming out, but there are only a few that are worth playing. Good games have a good story line, good graphics, and realistic characters. Here are two.

Onimusha Dawn of Dreams

Onimusha Dawn of Dreams, a game for Playstation 2, is exceptional. The game is the third part of the Onimusha series for PS2. The story takes place in Japan during the year 1596. Japan was under the control of genma, dead souls brought back to earth, and people lived in total chaos and misery. There were warriors called Onimushas, which had special powers; some of them worked for evil and some fought for the people of Japan. An Onimusha appeared and restored peace to Japan. The people thought they would live in peace forever but four years later, genma began to reappear and destruction spread throughout Japan once again. Two years later, a warrior named Hideyoshi Yoko, who also possessed Oni powers, appeared and began to fight the genma in hope of restoring peace in Japan. In the game, the main character is Hideyoshi Yoko, who possesses special powers that will help fight against the genma and the bosses.

The graphics are decent but the camera angles are bad. The camera doesn't adjust itself, it has to be adjusted manually while walking or fighting. There are a variety of weapons that can be found in different levels of the game and shady characters who become allies. The scenery is great; forests are full with a variety of animals, deserts full with sand dunes and sandstorms, and the palaces look like the palaces that are drawn in ancient Japanese pictures. Everything about the game, which is divided into 2 discs because it is so long, is good, except for the camera angles. I rate this game a 7 out of 10.

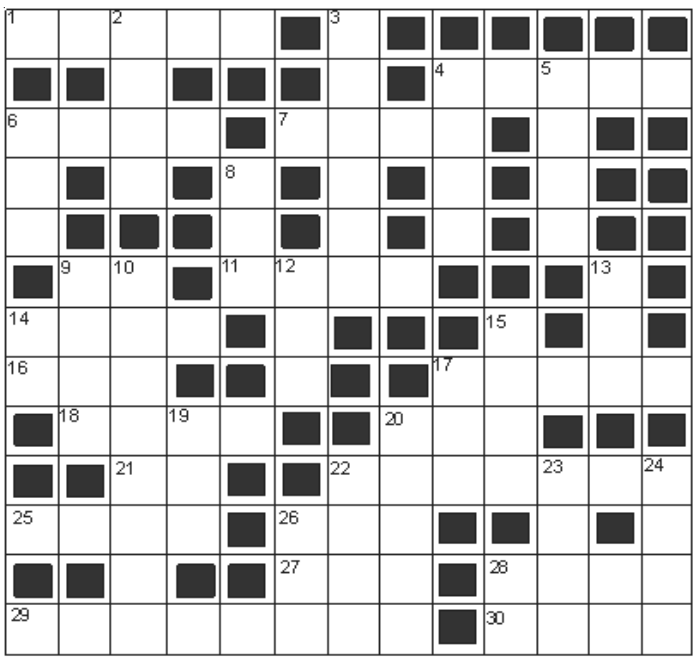
Final Fantasy VII: Dirge of Cerberus

Dirge of Cerberus, part of the Final Fantasy series, is another outstanding game for Playstation 2. The story is based on Vincent Valentine, a mysterious character with an uncontrollable curse that turns him into a monster when he gets extremely angry. In the town of Edge, Vincent's hometown, there have been complaints about screams that echo in the night. The population of Edge has been dropping and no one knows what is causing it. Vincent has been noticing these events and sets out to find the cause, but he doesn't know that throughout the journey, he will find out secrets about his past.

The game is terrific, just like the rest of the series. The camera angles are ok because they change depending on which way the character is facing. There are weapons and power ups like gun parts and magic spells spread throughout the game as well as allies. The graphics are excellent when a movie type part appears but then gets kind of bad when the actual game play starts. The scenery throughout the game is very good. The story takes place in mountainous areas, sewers, factories, and cities. The controls are kind of hard to master. I rate this game a 9 out of 10.

Crossword Puzzle

by Fernando Méndez



Across:
4-Velocity
6-Capital of Peru
7- A clothing brand represented by a check
9- Antonym of she
11-CD
14-Directory
16-Curve or Semicircle
17-Antonym of Goodbye
18-Not difficult
21-Abbr. of Los Angeles
22-Not glued
25-Horned animal related to sheep
27- Attached by stitches
28-Scent
29-Unnecessary
30-Not one

Down:
1-Engine
2-What —— is it?
3-A clothing brand represented by three stripes
4-Vend
5- Currency unit of Europe
8-Father
9-Employ someone
10- Increase
12-Abbr.of incorporated
13-Laughing Out Loud
14-The Syllable used for the sixth tone of a diatonic scale
15- Underworld
19-Abbr.of Scholastic Aptitude Test
26-North American Country
20- Chew at something
22-United States Employment Service
23- Antonym of Redo
24-Dreadful
28-Antonym of Off

These Puzzles are generated by using Sudoku Assistenten. It is free download from www.sudoku.frihost.net/.

Video Games Review II

by Fernando Mendez

Resistance: Fall of Man

This is game that is based in military action, science fiction. This is a game about a war of humans vs. chimeras, specie of unknown origin propagating a virus that converts animals and humans into chimeras.
The armies of U.S. and Britain decided to take action to terminate this specie that was attacking Europe and Asia. So the U.S. and Britain band together to defend people. In this game you can see the weapons like they were real, every detail looks real which makes the game more interesting ,and also features co-op, split screen multiplayer and highly customizable online gameplay. It'll take you into the action right away.

Need for Speed: Carbon

This game delivers the next generation of adrenaline-filled street racing as players face the ultimate test of driving skill on treacherous canyon roads. This video game will take you into the most exciting racing. You and your friends can race in an all-out war for the city, risking everything to take over your rivals' neighborhoods one at a time. As the police turn up the heat, the battle ultimately shifts to Carbon Canyon, where territories and reputations can be lost on every dangerous race. You can create, or customize your cars, and you also you can create a team, you choose your team mates, and you can use their abilities, tricks, and combine their designs with yours, creating styles for your cars.

Tony Hawk's Project 8

Tony Hawk's Project 8 takes players in the definitive skateboarding experience using grate graphics that are realistic, enhanced physics and extremely responsive controls that simulate the feeling of skateboarding with every trick and bail, and the ability to move ramps, and rails throughout the city. This includes a full 3D body scans of pro athletes and motion captured skateboard tricks. Tony Hawk's Project 8 is a redesign game from Tony Hawk's Pro Skater. This is a game that challenges players to experience the intensity, and pressure of skateboarding against the top professional skateboarders from true life competitions. Players have the freedom to change their characters while playing, and also offers more interesting missions. These are advantages that the others Tony Hawk's games don't offer.

Fight Night Round 3

This game is a great boxing videogame; you can get the best experience on the virtual ring. The graphics makes it as one of the best games. Outside the ring, you can establish intense rivalries through pre-fight events putting purpose, and passion behind every hit. It's the closest thing to being in the ring without getting punched.

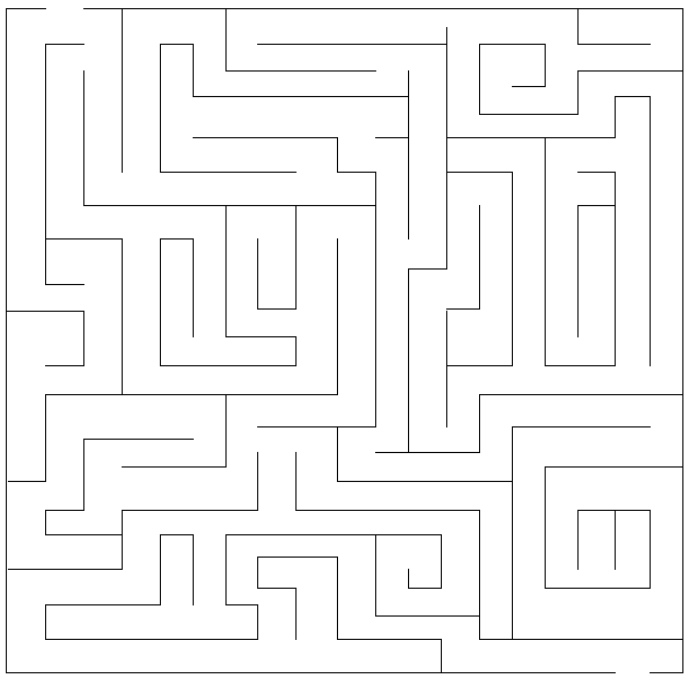
The graphics are so realistic that it will make you think that you're watching a real fight.

In this game you can create your fighter, and its own styles of fighting. You can fight opponents in the game, and also online versus other people.

Maze

by Jerry Chang

Start



End

New York Hot Spots

by Stephanie Baique

New York is filled with fun, entertaining, and educational places. If you are interested in getting to know New York a little better, here are a few places of interest to visit.

The Rose Center for Earth and Space

The Rose Center is a new addition to the Museum of Natural History and is based on astronomy and astrophysics. It is located on the northern side of the Museum of Natural History on West 81st Street on the west side of Central Park. The Rose Center was created so that the public could gain a better understanding of how science works. The museum is constantly updated and its sources include NASA. The Rose Center operates daily except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The museum is open from 10am to 5:45pm and space shows begin daily at 10:30am, repeating every half an hour until 4:30pm. The Rose Center remains open until 8:45pm every first Friday of the month and space show hours are as well extended until 7pm the first Friday of each month. Ticket prices vary. For general admissions, adults pay $14, children 2-12 pay $8, seniors and students with ID pay $10.50, and members are admitted at no cost. A general admission includes the regular 45 exhibitions there are in the museum. Other admission packages include entrance to the regular 45 exhibitions, the space shows, IMAX films, and special exhibitions, at an additional cost.

Liberty Island

Liberty Island is best known as the site of the Statue of Liberty, which represents America's freedom, located in Upper New York Bay. The only available public transportation to the island is the ferry. Star Fort, which was an 11 pointed star shaped figure, originally stood on this island before the Statue of Liberty. Because of the Twin Towers attack in 2001, the island is guarded by patrols of the United States Coast Guard. Liberty Island operates daily from 9:30am-5pm, except Christmas. Operating hours change seasonally. There are no entrance fees for visiting Liberty Island, however there are costs for riding the ferry. Children 4-12 pay $4.50, young adults 13 and up pay $11.50, and senior citizens 62 and over pay $9.50. Reservations are not required to enter, but "Time Passes" reservations are needed to ensure one's visit inside the monument.

The Empire State Building

The Empire State Building stood as the tallest building in New York City before the World Trade Center was built and became the tallest skyscraper in New York City, once again, after the World Trade Center terrorist attacks in 2001. The building symbolizes New York City as the World's City. It is a 102 story building named as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. The building is also the second tallest in the United States, after the Sears Tower in Chicago. The Empire State Building was the first building to have more than 100 floors. It weighs 330,000 metric tons. The Empire State Building operates 365 days a year. It is open from 8am to midnight Sundays through Wednesdays and Thursday through Saturday it is open from 8am to 2am. The admission price for children 6-11 is $12 and $16 for youths 12-17. Adults 18-61 are admitted for $18 and senior citizens 62 and over are admitted for $16. Toddlers 5 or younger and military people in their uniform are admitted for free. Members of the military who are not in uniform pay $16 with military ID.

Fresh Gadgets

by Jerry Chang

Playstation 3

The new PS3 console from Sony comes in two versions, a 60 GB version and a 20 GB version. The 20 GB console has the Cell Broadband engine, GPU of RSX "Reality Synthesizer," memory of 256MB XDR Main RAM 256MB GDDR3 VRAM, Ethernet, Bluetooth 2.0, and wireless controller Bluetooth. The 60MB has the same but with MemoryStick/SD/ CompactFlash Slots, and Wi-Fi. The PS3 entertainment system unleashes a brilliant, high definition entertainment experience. The new Cell Broadband Engine gives gamers a whole new gaming system. The built-in Blu-ray Disc drive delivers a whole new generation in high definition gaming and unmatched digital media storage.

XBOX 360

A new and powerful gaming system created by Microsoft, Xbox gives gamers a whole new experience with high definition graphics and new features. XBox 360 gives access to games that gamers want to play, the choice of people to play with, and the experiences they crave. It has a built in IBM PowerPC, memory of 512MB with 700MHz GDDR3 RAM, and broadband service with gamer profile for digital identity and voice chat.

Microsoft Zune

The Zune includes a 30GB digital media player. The Zune device features wireless technology, a built-in FM tuner, and a bright 3 inch screen that allows users to not only show off music, pictures, and video, but also customize the experience with personal pictures or themes. Wireless Zune-to-Zune sharing lets consumers share full length sample tracks of selected songs, homemade recordings, pictures, or playlists. Zune makes it easy to find music from the Zune marketplace and one can easily import existing music, pictures, and videos in many formats.

Canon PowerShot SD600

The PowerShot SD600 Digital ELPH gives it all the power you would expect from a high resolution camera. It is a high quality, megapixel digital ELPH with 3x optical zoom and UA Lens. It has a 2.5 inch LCD screen and optical viewfinder for an easy on-camera viewing or shooting. The new ISO 800 reduces image blur and expands low-light shooting ability. The DIGIC II Image Processor and iSAPS Technology gives superior image quality, faster operation, and low power usage and a 16:9 widescreen mode for full-screen viewing on widescreen TVs and computer monitors.

LG VX8500 Chocolate

The all-new Chocolate phone by LG has a smooth slide design that offers a rich variety of features that includes V CAST Music, glowing touch sensitive keypad, music/video player, 1.3 megapixel camera/ camcorder, Bluetooth, and a microSD memory port for extra storage.

Senior Sports Profiles

by Daniel Medina

Jesus Alonso

Age: 18
Team: Basketball
Position: Center/Forward
Years on Team: 1

"He was a good teammate and always worked hard for the starting spot. Even with the team's troubles, he kept a positive attitude."

-Mingmar Lama

"A good player who missed so many games because of personal reasons."

-Mr. Maloney

Keon Badger

Age: 17
Team: Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on Team: 2

"Keon was a good player and never gave up on the team."

- David Bermudez

"Keon was the best offensive player on the team. He could sky (jump) with the best of them. Keon was tough as nails."

-Mr. Maloney

Mathew Cabrera

Age: 17
Team: Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on Team: 1

"Matt was more of a coach. He was a great motivator and his love for the game and his teammates was what kept me motivated to play."

- Andrew Ferguson

"Matt was a leader on and off the court. My nickname for him was "coach." Someday he will coach basketball."

-Mr. Maloney

Paul Carino

Age: 17
Team: Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on Team: 2

"Paul was a good teammate. When he failed off, it seemed like the team wasn't the same."

-Skyfree Ferguson

"Paul was a solid player and the teams' chemistry changed when he was no longer playing basketball."

-Mr. Maloney

Leonel Garcia

Age: 18
Team: Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on Team: 2

"Leo may have been the shortest player on our team, but there isn't any one bigger than him when it comes to heart and determination."

-George Serna

"Leo has the heart of a lion. His point guard skills improved throughout the season."

- Mr. Maloney

Oscar Hernandez

Age: 17
Team: Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on Team: 1

"Oscar is a good player to be around and his dedicated to play ball. He's a good teammate."

-Edwin Hill

"Oscar played solid basketball at the end of the season. I looked forward to him playing next year but it turned out that he is a senior in junior shop class."

- Mr. Maloney

Lamar Jenkins

Age: 17
Team: Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on Team: 2

"Lamar is a good teammate. He played hard every time he got in."

-Jerell Hampton

"Lamar was a three point specialist. When we needed a three pointer, Lamar would often deliver."

- Mr. Maloney

Jeffrey Troung

Age: 17
Team: Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on Team: 2

"Jeffery was a very good sport and gave a lot heart on the court."

-Carlos Mason

"Good shooter who never took a bad shot. He often got open looks at the basket."

-Mr. Maloney

Mahendra Jagdharry

Age: 17
Team: Bowling
Position: B Team
Years on Team: 1

"He was a good teammate. He was a good contributor to the team. He did what he needed to do at the time we needed him."

- Anthony Hughes

"Mahendra was a vital part to our team's success this year.

- Mr. Devaux

Simple Tips for Staying Healthy & Fit

by Anadia Diaz

With the prom about a month away, the search for the perfect dress has begun. Girls are now thinking about cutting back on eating fatty foods and are starting to eat healthy to try and fit into that special prom dress. And guys are trying to look their best for the girls. The need to cut back on fats plays a major role if you want to lose weight or get in shape. Eating the same and working out may not help your body make much of a difference. But starving yourself and not eating at all won't give you the body you want or help your health either.

When eating, make sure you listen to your body when it tells you you're full. Don't continue eating simply because the food tastes good. Give your body a break. Eating too much can make you uncomfortable and it can lead to unhealthy weight.

Fruits and vegetables give you nutrients that your body needs. Liquids, such as water and milk are also necessary. Water helps food digest well and milk gives you calcium, which helps build strong bones. Pure fruit juice, not the artificial kind, is also good. Fruit punch contains lots of sugar, which is not good for your body.

Eating healthy is just one step. People need to be active. Find an activity you like to do. Instead of watching TV, playing video games or searching the web, play sports, dance, work out, or run in the park. If you do this for 30 minutes each day and eat healthy everyday, you can get in shape in time for the prom. It would also help a lot if you find friends to do this with you because they can encourage you when you don't feel like working out. Friends can be good motivators.

It's good to keep your body in shape because your body won't feel as exhausted. Walking up the stairs in school or walking to class won't be tiring anymore because your body is in good shape.

"Getting in shape helps build self-esteem and makes teenagers participate in sports more often," said Mr. Boyle. "Some teenagers don't even feel comfortable changing in the locker room because they think they're too fat," said Stephanie Rosario.

"Being healthy and having your body in shape helps you live a longer life," said Mr. Boyle.

See your coach or Mr. Lerro for information about the 5th Annual Sports Banquet, on Friday, June 5.

T I G E R S

Softball Looks Foward to a New Beginning

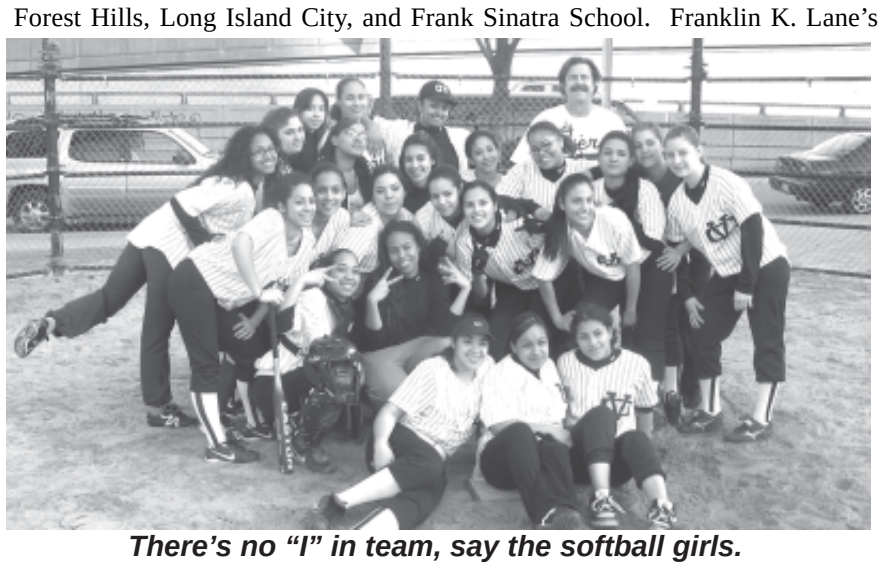
by Yessenia Perez

The Lady Tigers softball team is in a rebuilding mode, and is starting to show signs of improvement. "On April 20 we won our first league game. The girls played as a team and the result was winning the game," said Coach Boyle.

The team's first league game was March 27 against Grover Cleveland. The Lady Tigers lost. "Losing a game can mean a lot to an individual but a team has to stick together in the good times and bad times. Our first game was nerve-wracking, we wanted to win. We put effort into the game. Win or lose we are happy to be a team," said rookie Ivana Nunez.

At the end of April, the Lady Tigers' record was 1-6. "We have had a rough season but our team is improving," said Coach Boyle.

The Lady Tigers are in Queens Division IIB, along with Grover Cleveland, Forest Hills, Long Island City, and Frank Sinatra School. Franklin K. Lane's



There's no "I" in team, say the softball girls.

Lady Knights and John Adams' Lady Spartans were moved up to division A this year. Coach Boyle said he is very happy with these changes because those schools really were division A teams. "Playing against new schools might help us in a positive way. We will work as a team, and there is no "I" in team," said veteran Estephany Jimenez.

This year the softball team held two bake sales. They raised over $1000, which will go toward the purchase of softball bags and top and bottom sweatpants for the team, said Coach Boyle.

The team is compromised of 8 veterans: Lorena Bonilla, Dayana Jaramillo, Dairis Jimenez, Estephany Jimenez, Nelissa Fernandez, Christy Hernandez, Samantha Mendez, and Magdeline Rodriguez, and 18 rookies: Ashley Abreu, Ashley Addonisio, Karen Alvarez, Tracy Ambrossi, Cindy Carrasco, Brigitte Diaz, Yara Diaz, Joana Garcia, Diana Giraldo, Laura Gonzalez, Karolina Gorna, Yvonne Johnson, Samantha Lupo, Shanessy Morales, Ivana Nunez, Leidy Sierra, Jossie Vaca, and Ruthie Vegas.

Team captain Dairis Jimenez had been anxious for the season to begin. "Last year we had a 3-10 record. This year I hope we improve our record, it's going to be hard work for all of us, but mostly for the rookies because it's their first year on the team."

Initial tryouts were held during the last week of February in the Queens Voc gymnasium. Coach Boyle and the returning veterans were happy to see the turnout, even though they expected more girls to show up. During these conditional tryouts, the girls were separated into different stations, such as fielding, hop scotch, curls, medicine ball, in-in out-out with sprint, triceps, standing rows, military press, frontal raises, plyometric, batting, catching, and running to Van Dam Street. Conditional tryouts are meant to keep one in shape and regular tryouts are for an individual to demonstrate their skills, said Mr. Boyle.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

May 1	Long Island City	Bush Field #1
May 3	Grover Cleveland	Bush Field #1
May 4	Thomas Edison	Bush Field #1
May 8	Frank Sinatra	Maurice Park
May 11	Flushing	Leavitt Field
May 15	Long Island City	Long Island City
May 16	Frank Sinatra	Maurice Park.

S P O R T S

Varsity Baseball Season Under Way

by Gabriel Ortiz

The Queens Voc Tigers boys' varsity baseball team started their season by canceling practices and non-league games because of bad weather. The team cancelled 7 practices and converted 3 cancelled games, including a doubleheader against Hillcrest, into indoor practices. "I blame global warming for this," joked Coach Schimenz.

Jhonneiry fires a pitch.

Despite the bad weather, the boys' varsity baseball team managed to continue preparing for the season. In February, the team attended the PSAL clinic at Aviation High School. "Coaches from other schools gave players advice about fielding and batting, and introduced different drills," said Diomedes Gonzalez, a four-year veteran and one of the team captains.

The Queens Voc Tigers have played 26 games and were 5-3 in league games, at the end of April. The team defeated John Browne 12 to 3 and again 9 to 8. They also defeated Springfield Gardens 5 to 3 and Arts and Business twice, 11 to 3 and 13 to 1. "The team is doing pretty well. We were off to a slow start, but we're getting back on track. We keep improving each day," said Jason Castillo, a two-year veteran.

The team held a kickoff meeting on February 28, the day before the season officially started. The coach and team captains, Elbel Estrella, Diomedes Gonzalez, and Daniel Medina, distributed schedules and directions to the baseball fields. They also explained team expectations, requirements, and policies. The day before the meeting, the team held a bake sale to raise money.

The boys' varsity baseball team has 27 players, 14 veterans and 13 rookies. The veterans are: Alex Almanzar, Carlos Belliard, Jason Castillo, Rene Cruz, Steven D'Elena, Elbel Estrella, Danny Fernandez, Diomedes Gonzalez, Jonathan Matias, Danny Medina, Steven Pinell, Emmanuel Portorreal, Guillermo Taveras, and Angel Tejada. They are joined by rookies: Roy Aranzamendi, Jamie Collado, Juan De LaCruz, Rafael De Oleo, Janio Fernandez, Erwin Gonzalez, Annaldo Jimenez, Raylin Leroux, David Lopez, Daniel Ortiz, Jhonneiry Perez, Joey Reyes, and Carlin Vizcaino.

In addition to the 16 league games (L), the team scheduled 35 non-league (NL) games to allow them to practice and develop. "Because we have no real field to call home to practice on, we schedule many non-league games. That also enables our team to improve," said Coach Schimenz. "Every player gets ample time to work on his skills," he added.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

5/2 Flushing @ Leavitt Field (L)	5/10 Wagner @ TBA (L)
5/3 American Studies @ FM #10 (NL)	5/11 A. Martin @ A. Martin (L)
5/4 Flushing @ FM #10 (L)	5/12 Walton @ Walton (NL)
5/5 F.K. Lane @ Lane 9:30am (NL)	5/15 T. Harris @ Kissena #6 (L)
5/8 Wagner @ FM #10 (L)	5/17 T. Harris @ FM #10 (L)

Ms. Ferrara joins the boys for a Saturday game at Lane HS.

TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE