



Paintballers looking happy as they pose united before going into battle.

Senior Trip Like a Family Outing

by Eliana Moronta

One hundred Queens Voc seniors spent Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend at Honors Haven Resort and Spa in Ellenville, NY. The cost of the trip was \$279 including 6 meals, all-day snack bar, laser tag, karaoke night, snow tubing, night club, indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, and access to the fitness center. The trip took place from Friday, Jan. 13, to Sunday, Jan 15.

"It was very fun," said Mr. Vega, senior advisor and coor-

dinator of the trip. "I was proud of how our students managed to have fun the right way, as well as staying away from drama," he said.

Seniors were accompanied by Ms. DeCarlo, Mr. Devaux, Ms. Ferrara, Ms. Gonzales, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Rejalaga, Ms. Ridge, Ms. Sartori, Mr. Stefanidis, and Mr. Vega, who chaperoned the trip.

There were additional costs for other activities such as paintball for \$30 and horseback riding for \$35. "Unfortunately, we couldn't go skiing or snow-

boarding because there was insufficient snow," said Jonathan Avila. "But I still had a lot of fun doing other activities like paintballing with my friends"

"Senior trip was very fun and entertaining, especially at the parties," said senior class President Maximilian Manticof. "I loved how QV stuck together the whole time like the family we are. We would wait for each other in front of the club until everyone was together and then we would enter the club representing QV instead

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New Progress Reports Keep Parents Informed

by Yaw Teh

This year at Queens Voc, a new, computerized progress report system is being used. This new system makes it easier for the school to notify parents and guardians about students' performance and behavior in class as well as teachers' comments, said Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of Pupil Personnel Services at Queens Voc.

"They are being sent home six times a year," said Ms. Ocampo. The progress reports in previous years were sent home less often. "In previous years, we left it to teachers to send home handwritten progress reports. This is the first year that we are sending home computerized progress reports on a strict schedule," she said.

Sending home progress reports will increase parent awareness.

"We've experienced positive results. Parents knew more about their children's behavior in school and it gave both students and parents a chance to take the advice of teachers," Ms. Ocampo said.

Caleb Petrus, a senior, disapproves of the comments section. "I think there should be actual advice. Comments

like 'Has the ability to do better' isn't really advice," he said. "It's a good idea though," he said.

Kevin Tlapanco, a junior, said he doesn't really mind the progress reports being sent home. "They're not being sent home to catch you for anything. They're just reports to tell your parents how you're doing in every class. Even if I did not do too well," Kevin said, "I still wouldn't care, I'll just try to do better the next marking period."

"The system is very good!" said Mr. Garcia, the SLC coordinator of SES. "It makes sending progress reports tremendously easier. The system provides teachers with drop down menus and a chance to fill out the forms on their own time. We are able to send home one report with all the teachers on it quickly, taking only about an hour for 134 reports," he said.

Students, however, noticed a flaw in the system, Mr. Garcia said. "Students complained about the number of cuts and absences because the report was incorrect. A progress report that provides inaccurate information may cause future distrust of the reports itself," he said.

SO Reaches Out to Help Others

by Evelin Ramirez

The Student Organization held a Valentine's dance on Friday, Feb. 10, and coordinated the blood drive and the school's participation in the City Harvest food drive, making this a "highly successful

year so far," said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities. "There is more to come," said Mr. Vega who has been leading the SO and senior class activities for 10 years.

In December's blood drive, Mr. Vega said, 49 eligible donors donated 61 units of blood.

James Batista, a senior who donated, was glad to be part of the event. "The blood drive was well organized and the nurses were very welcoming and gentle. It felt good to be able to help others," he said. Ashley Deaza, another senior who donated blood, said she "enjoyed it because it was for a good cause."

City Harvest is another activity hosted by the SO every year. In Queens Voc, this activity is known as the "battle of the shop classes." CTE classes compete against each other by bringing in as many canned goods as possible. Mr. Yu's sophomore class won this year's competition. The City Harvest Foundation distributes the food to nearly 600 community programs and shelters throughout the city. Mr. Vega



Popular Valentine's Dance was a sold out event.

said he "enjoys being able to give back to those who need it the most." Queens Voc donated 3,000 pounds of food. "I thought it was nice because the kids wanted to help the people even if they weren't going to win [the battle of the shops]," said Ms. Quartuccio, a cosmetology teacher. Ms. Gonzales, another cosmetology teacher, said, "It's a good event in which

the classes have the opportunity to participate in and are able to help the people who need it the most."

The SO is working to put together more activities. Mr. Vega said that he wants to coordinate more trips for SO members. Some of his ideas for future SO trips are a trip to Medieval Times or a Broadway show.

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Seniors: Like Family on Trip

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in individually like other schools,” Max said. Once the students arrived at the hotel, they bundled up to go out for a game of tackle football, a Queens Voc tradition, according to Mr. Vega, that has occurred annually since 2001. The girls decided to play tag football so they wouldn’t get tackled. “Football was fun and I was happy that the girls made their own teams. Most of them

knew how to play,” said Andrea Sacharsky. “We made up two teams, a black team and a grey team, according to what we were wearing, and everyone was okay with it,” she said. That night students partied at the night club where the DJ played reggae, reggaeton, techno, hip-hop, salsa, merengue, bachata, and R&B. They celebrated Jorge Calderon’s 18th birthday with a shout out from the DJ. “I am so thank-

ful for having a class so caring and fun, it meant a lot to me to celebrate it with them,” said Jorge Calderon. “Even people from others school wished me a happy birthday,” he said. The next morning students woke up after a night of partying to have breakfast. “At breakfast we had the choice of eggs, French toast, sausages, cereal, bagels, and yogurt,” said Michelle Rojas. “After breakfast, we went paintballing, which was a great experience. The whole nature environment made it feel like we were really at war,” said

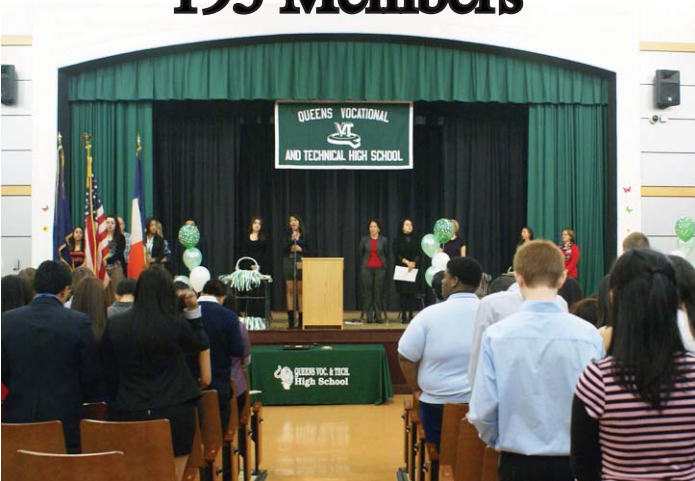
Jose Peralta. That evening students had the choice of “pork, chicken, pasta, potatoes, corn, and salad for dinner,” said Michelle. After dinner, the Queens Voc students went to the karaoke party, where most of them sang on stage. Later, the students went to the night clubs, wearing their Queens Voc Seniors 2012 sunglasses, and celebrated Jacqueline Jimenez’s 18th birthday. On Sunday morning, the students woke up early to be at breakfast at 8am. After breakfast they headed to Skate Time 209, where they roller skated. “I

enjoyed roller skating because it had been a long time since I had skated on roller skates,” said Shakirra Smith. “It was also really funny watching my friends busting their cushions.” After roller skating, students headed back to the hotel to pack. After lunch, they went back to their rooms, got their luggage, loaded the buses, and headed back to Queens Voc. The seniors arrived at the school around 4pm, where friends and family awaited. “I didn’t want to come back but I am glad I had an amazing weekend with my senior class,” said Yaniri Infante.

by Fitore Morina

One hundred and ninety-five students were enrolled in the 2011 Presidential Honor Society, for maintaining an overall average of 85 or higher. Inducted into the honor society were 83 sophomores, 59 juniors, and 53 seniors. The Honor Society induction ceremony took place on Dec. 15 in the school’s auditorium. The hour-long ceremony began about 8:15am. Family, friends, and staff were invited to celebrate the academic achievements of the inductees. During the ceremony, the inductees received certificates and medals. The inductees were

Honor Society Inducts 195 Members



Honor Society ceremony drew hundreds of supporters.

called up by grade, to receive their awards. Ms. Basirico, the guidance counselor for SES, coordinated the ceremony, said, “I think it went well. Like everything in life, there’s room for improvement, and to strive for excellence.” Maria Perez, a sophomore, sang the national anthem at the ceremony. “It went great! I sang the Star Spangled Banner. It was an honor. I was proud of myself and everyone there who was at the ceremony,” she said. After the induction ceremony, the inductees and their guests were invited to the cafeteria for a continental breakfast that included bagels, cake, croissants, fruits, tea,

juice, and coffee. Junior Maria Abbasi enjoyed the ceremony. She said she thought it was a great success and that she felt proud of her academic success and the achievements of the other students. The breakfast, she said, “was good. There was enough food for everyone there, and it looked like people were enjoying their time.” According to Ms. Guillen, an intern working with Ms. Basirico, “Students who did not attend the ceremony still count as Honor Society members.” Inductees who couldn’t make it to the ceremony can pick up their certificates from Ms. Basirico.

The National Presidential Honor Society award inductees of 2011:

Sophomores:

- Sandy Abiad
- Pamela Abreu
- Lorena Alatorre
- Gerardo Amigon
- Ashley Arango
- Alan Arturo
- Katia Ascencio
- Mohammed Aziz
- Shubham Basra
- Gabriella Biondo
- Maciej Bozek
- Szymon Bozek
- Rodrigo Bringas
- Gabrielle Butler
- Kimberly Caceres
- William Callanan
- Qiao Ling Chen
- Wen Li Chen
- Sadia Chowdhury
- Thalia Cia
- Nicole Coro
- Lucila Cortes Molina
- Yanni Cotacachi
- Jennifer Czerwinski
- Iveth Duran
- Jazlyn Espinal
- John Gamble
- Raymond Gong
- Alex Gonzalez
- Phillip Gooding
- Breanna Halladeen
- Shagur Hasan
- Mike Hernandez
- Eileen Herrera
- Xiomaira Inga
- Harsimar Jassar

- Lisbeth Lopez
- Isiah Lyons
- Suleima Macancela
- Feng Yi Mai
- Kenneth Marin
- Gabriella Martinez
- Jennifer Martinez
- Orlando Martinez
- Rosalva Martinez
- Valentin Martinez
- Eric McPherran
- Lisbeth Mejia
- Natalie Mercado
- Paola Munoz
- Maritza Murudumbay
- Licerio Nique
- Nemesis Noel
- Karen Orellana
- Antonio Parada
- Lesley Paucar
- Maria Perez
- Suzzette Perez
- Michal Piekarz
- Kimberly Pisfil
- Tania Puchuela
- Monica Puspasari
- Emily Quizhpilema
- Arun Rai
- Moises Ramos
- Adan Romero
- Maria Saldana
- Kimberly Sanay
- Noman Shahzada
- Amritpal Singh
- Christian Solarte
- Nazanin Somarin
- David Soto
- Gianne Swann
- Jocelyn Talavera
- Christian Teran
- Grebb Ventura

- John Verish
- Jesus Victorio
- Jefferson Vilcapoma
- Estefania Villegas
- Lesly Vivar
- Mirian Zhagui
- Juniors:
- Maria Abbasi
- Denisse Abreu
- Safreen Akbar
- Amin Al Sayed
- Jessica Alcaide
- Henry Alvarez
- Alexandra Ambrus
- Syarifah Andi
- Jenny Aucaquizhpi
- Dorothy Bailey
- Marilyn Bonilla
- Kimani Brown
- Denisse Carbo
- Yan Chen
- Qing Qing Cheng
- Andy Collado
- Melissa Espinosa
- Ibtihaj Farooq
- Natanael Feitosa
- Christian Flores
- Raymond Gomez
- Natalie Guanga
- Jessika Guerrero
- Chi Lung Hsu
- Amanda Iturralde
- Leiry Jaquez
- John Jerez
- Birkan Kavut
- Marcin Kochanek
- Valerie Lara Lopez
- Kelly Laynes
- Christian Lopez

- Daisy Maldonado
- Edith Mesa
- Isaac Morales
- Judy Moy
- Sonia Orellana
- Michelle Orozco
- Nicole Osorio
- Diego Palacios
- Xiomara Paredes
- German Perez
- Nichole Perez
- Mengxue Qu
- Mauricio Rivera
- Michael Roman
- Khiran Samsundar
- Cindy Sanchez
- Jesse Santander
- Crystal Scottborgh
- Priya Seejor
- Liyi Su
- Vanessa Tapia
- Mokit Uddin
- Julio Urgiles
- Monica Vega
- Richard Vega Visente
- Raymond Xue
- Ken Zou
- Seniors:
- Muneeza Ahmed
- Shady Albakry
- Juan Alzate
- Katherin Arias
- Betzabeth Astudillo
- Phillip Borisuck Jr.
- Dayna Brito
- Jorge Calderon
- Tina Marie Callanan
- Alice Chee
- Daniel Corona
- Alexis Crespin

- Ashley Deaza
- Priscilla Delgado
- Remilekun Diaz
- Chorten Dolma
- Runqing Fang
- Francisco Frias
- Gurkirat Hans
- Samantha Hasbun
- Manli Hu
- Yaniri Infante
- Sandra Jarro
- Brenda Jerez
- Kelly-Ann Kato
- Marcia Leva
- May Lin
- Lisbeth Marmolejos
- Fitore Morina
- Eliana Moronta
- Wanjing Nan
- Sylvester Nimako
- Tanisha Northington
- Yanil Ortiz
- Tina Pahlad
- Frank Pena
- Zuleyma Pena
- Christopher Perez
- Pawel Pietraszko
- Michelle Pineda
- Samuel Point Du Jour
- Qianjie Qu
- Evelin Ramirez
- Lucy Ramirez
- Sindi Rodriguez
- Vanina Romero
- Andrea Sacharsky
- Stefanie Sierra
- Yaw Teh
- Thomas Tinsley
- John Tosado
- Nohely Vazquez
- Daniela Vidal

Keeping up with Freshmen Leadership

by Stefanie Sierra

“The Freshmen Leadership tries to teach students to be leaders, as well groom them for student government and to be involved in the community,” said Mr. Elfreich. “Freshmen Leadership is a very productive group that gets things done,” said Mohammed Hossain.

“The students helped distribute the School of Exploration and Discovery T-shirts to teachers,” said Mr. Elfreich. Freshmen Leadership students have been preparing for the SED Awards ceremony, which has yet to be scheduled. “It’s been going well. Right now they’re working on a PowerPoint presentation and

music for the SED Awards ceremony,” said Ms. Ferrara.

The Freshmen Leadership is also discussing a movie night and possible trip. “We’re planning the movie night for the whole school, and we will be selling refreshments to raise money for future events,” said Mohammed Hossain. Ms. Ferrara said she is hoping to make a profit from the movie night.

“The students also brought cans of food for the school-wide food drive and made posters to promote packages for soldiers overseas,” said Mr. Elfreich. “The kids are still enthusiastic, especially those who come every week,” said Ms. Ferrara. “Now in the meetings we have about 10 to 15 students coming,” she said. “I hope the freshmen leadership will continue because my freshman year is going great and one of the reasons is this group,” said Mohammed.



Ms. Ferrara and some of the freshmen leaders.

Virtual Enterprise Heads to California

by Biaani Garcia

Tina Marie Callanan and Ms. Mitchell represented Queens Voc’s Virtual Enterprise in Bakersfield, CA, from Nov. 29 through Dec. 3. At the Bakersfield Trade Show, they joined international Virtual Enterprises and Practice Firms. The event included workshops, competitions, and the California State VE Trade Show. The students also went on trips to UCLA and to the Getty Museum according to Tina.

Tina, a senior, participated in a written and oral competition about market planning. “The groups were formed by two to three students from each school. I was the only student from Queens Voc, so I competed by myself,” said Tina, who came in 8th out of approximately 40 schools. The school was only willing to pay for one student to go to California, said Tina. Tina is the CEO of VE so she was chosen. She added, “I learned how to communicate better with people. Even though the event was only three days, I became very close to the people I met there.”

Students in Virtual Enterprise are working to market their product line. Queens Voc’s VE company is Diverse City Wear, a simulated clothing business. Timothy Kest and Kanwardeep Singh said that the class chooses clothes they believe will sell easily. They also created and maintain a webpage to promote

their products. “Our goal right now is to complete the catalogs and make money,” Kanwardeep said.

The Virtual Enterprise team will be attending the 2012 Youth Business Summit, which includes the 15th annual NYC Virtual Enterprise International Trade Show, on Thursday,

March 29, in Manhattan. Representatives of other student-run businesses from Brazil, Austria, Canada, Indonesia, and other countries are expected to attend. “We will be selling virtual products and maybe even some real products,” said Ms. Mitchell. The class’s goal is to make \$75,000 at the show.



VE students at the conference table discussing ideas.

Kaplan SAT Prep Offered to Students

by Lisbeth Marmolejos

Kaplan is an SAT preparation program for juniors and seniors. Ms. Ocampo implemented the program last year at Queens Voc. This year, the program had 25 students in the fall term, and is expected to have 78 students in the spring term.

Ms. Ocampo, the assistant

principal of Pupil Personnel Services, researched various SAT prep programs, and found the Kaplan program, even though expensive, the most successful program in NYC.

Ms. Ocampo said she implemented the program at Queens Voc because the students weren’t meeting the required SAT scores to enter



Queens College auditorium holds up to 2,124 people.

Graduation Moves to a Different Venue

by Nohely Vazquez

The senior class of 2012 is expected to have 274 graduates, according to Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of Pupil Personnel Services. That’s 74 more graduates than the class of ’11, forcing a change in the location of the graduation ceremony to Queens College. “Mr. Vega, Ms. Ocampo, and I looked for places that could hold the senior class, and it looked pretty clear that Queens College suited all our needs,” said Principal Burg.

For, the last eight years, graduation has taken place in the Mainstage Theater at LaGuardia Community College. Before that, it was held in the airplane hangar at Aviation High School.

“We have a larger class, which is great, but we need to make some changes to the lo-

cation,” Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, said. LaGuardia only has 742 seats and 12 seats for guests in wheelchairs. This is not enough if each graduating senior brings three guests. Queens College’s Colden Auditorium, where the ceremony might take place, can hold 2,124 people, which mathematically should allow graduating seniors to bring as many as six guests, but Mr. Vega suggested that seniors would initially be allowed to bring three to four guests.

According to Mr. Vega, graduation might take place on June 25 at 7:30pm, but that hasn’t been confirmed. The expense for the rental at Queens College is about \$2,600 more than it was at the previous location. “The senior dues covers some of these costs, the rest is supplemented by the school,” said Mr. Vega.

a CUNY or SUNY four year school.

While the maximum number of students allowed in the program is 75, Ms. Ocampo said, 81 students signed up for the program. The Kaplan coordinator allowed 78 students to take the program, but Ms. Ocampo said she will try to convince Kaplan to allow 81 Queens Voc students in the program.

The fall program, which ran from Sept. 8 to Jan. 23, was advertised only to seniors. The spring session, which started Jan. 31 and runs through June 27, was advertised only to juniors.

Spring session classes meet at Queens Voc on Mondays and Wednesdays, and are taught by Kaplan coordinators. The class meets for eight weekday sessions and two Saturday sessions. “The Saturday sessions are for pre and post tests,” Ms. Ocampo said. Katherin Arias, a student who took the course

last year, said, “One day we focus on reading and writing, and the other day we focus on mathematics.” She said that the Kaplan program helped her improve her mathematics score on her SAT.

According to Ms. Ocampo many students’ scores have increased with the help of this program. “An example of improvement is when a student from the Kaplan program increased his SAT score by 220 points,” she said. Radison Moronta, a student who took the fall term class, said that the program has helped him approach the SAT with a more positive attitude.

The program could run better at Queens Voc. “A huge problem with this program is that the students don’t attend the Saturday sessions, so we can’t see immediate results of improvements,” Ms. Ocampo said. “We have to wait a whole year to see the SAT score report.”

Bed Bugs Discovered in Queens Voc

by Tina Pahlad

Three bed bugs have been found in Queens Voc since the start of school in September.

A live bed bug was found during Ms. Lingstuy's class, in room 321 in September. The bed bug was crawling on a student. "It's upsetting and it's a concern," Ms. Lingstuy said at the time.

The bug was sent to the Department of Education's Pest Management Unit, part of the Office of School Support Services. Within few weeks later, school administrators were informed that the bug was indeed a bed bug.

Ms. Burg never saw the bed bug, but she said, she "felt a little grossed out like most people would feel," when she heard about it.

The Pest Management Unit, according to Ms. Burg, sent in special bed bug exterminators

to ensure that there were no further bed bugs.

In early December, another bug was found in 321. The bug was discovered during eight period on a "tutoring Tuesday" when Ms. Spallone and her class, near the tables, and Ms. Lingstuy and her class, near the mirrors, shared the room. Ms. Spallone found the bug crawling on the tables, terrifying her, Ms. Lingstuy, and their classes. Ms. Spallone ran to her cabinet, she said, and "scooped the bug up and put it in a jar." The bug was alive but quickly died inside the jar. "I felt very uncomfortable. I was scared and worried," she said. Once again the bug was sent to the Pest Management Unit. This time, however, the bug was not a bed bug.

In late December, a bug was found in room 255. In January, a bug was found in room 309. Both bugs were bed bugs.

Ms. Burg does not believe

there is a bed bug infestation in the school. "We would know because there are signs," she said. According to Ms. Burg, one sign would be the likelihood of bed bug bites. "There have been no bites," the principal said.

"New York City has a big bed bug problem," said Ms. Burg. "The easiest places to pick up bed bugs are in hotels, planes, and even movie theaters, believe it or not," she said. Many students and teachers use public transportation and the bed bugs can jump from jacket to jacket.

"Just because there's one bed bug, doesn't mean there is a whole school of bed bugs," Ms. Burg said. The exterminators have not said that Queens Voc has a bed bug problem. "I am very happy that there is no infestation," said Ms. Burg.

EI and Plumbing Open Doors

by Juan Alzate

Graduating seniors in either EI or plumbing can join Construction Skills 2000, a program that can lead to a direct entry to one of 19 different unions including sanitation, plumbing, and electrical unions in NYC.

Despite 15 spots available for Queens Voc students in plumbing and EI, and the willingness of Construction Skills leaders to accept up to five more eligible Queens Voc students, only nine students applied. The applicants for construction skills are Derek Atson, Ellie Brienza, Corbin Aldridge, Salvatore Isabella, Alejandro Obando, Kenal Ortega, Washington Pazmino, Gregory Rousseau, and Esteban Vega.

"With these hard economical times, this is a great opportunity for skilled workers to take advantage and make their own future. There are no division lines between the 15 seats between EI and plumbing, so the spots will go to the kids with the most ambition, a lot of determination, and best grades. This program is excellent because after the apprenticeship, every student will finish with an associate's degree. This year, only nine students have applied for construction skills. This is one of the lowest number of applicants I've had," said Mr. Ali, director of SSBT.

Andy Vasquez, who graduated from Queens Voc

in 2009, joined Construction Skills in his senior year. He applied to 3 unions. "Hard work and dedication paid off when I was accepted into the Plumbing Local 1 Union. I took my apprenticeship seriously because I knew this is what I wanted to do," said Andy. He is currently working with the Local 3 Plumbing Union.

Ellie Brienza, an EI senior, applied to Construction Skills 2000. "I really hope I get into Skills because it will better my chances of getting into the union. I am excited for the training and work I will have to do. I am going to give it my all!" she said.

Students who are accepted will be sent to training seminars each Monday for 15 weeks. In the summer, students will choose from the 19 union choices and work in one of two summer rotations. Students who go to all of the meetings but cannot work in the summer, are wasting their time because they cannot continue without the summer work. After the summer work, students will receive notifications about the unions they had applied to.

Construction Skills 2000 applications were due when students returned from the December break. To apply, students need a minimum of a 75 as a mean GPA, at least a 75 or higher on any math Regents, and at least a 75 on their English Regents, and must be recommended by their CTE teacher.

From Club to Realm



Ms. Lewis and her book club members in the Readers Realm.

by Brenda Jerez

At a recent meeting of the book club, initiated by Ms. Lewis, the school librarian, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins was distributed to its 30 members. "During previous meetings, students took surveys to figure out what type of genres interested the members," said Ms. Lewis, "based on the results, we chose *The Hunger Games*."

The book club also got a new name. "'The book club' is kind of dull," said Ms. Lewis, so she asked members to come up with a new name. Spirited Away, Readers Hotspot, and Readers Realm were among the ideas the students proposed. Readers Realm was the most popular, Ms. Lewis said, and was chosen as the

book club's new name. Chor-ten Dolma, a senior, suggested the name and was awarded a free book, *Karma*, by Cathy Ostlere.

Ms. Lewis spoke about *The Hunger Games* to members and told them that it contained mystery, romance, and adventure. After the books were distributed, the members were told to read the first three pages. "When I read those first three pages, I felt this was going to be my book," said Marjan Bakth, one of the freshman members of Readers Realm. She said that when the book was introduced, she felt a bit hesitant about it, but afterwards she felt a connection to it and immediately immersed herself in the book.

Prior to the distribution of the books, Readers Realm

hadn't met for some time because Ms. Lewis was waiting for the books to be delivered. After the books were distributed, members also received a coupon from the principal, Ms. Burg, for free cookies at the Panera Bread Bakery.

On Friday, Feb. 3, Readers Realm met to discuss the book, take a quiz, and then return *The Hunger Games* to Ms. Lewis. Kent Vara, another member of the book club, finished reading *The Hunger Games* the first week he received it. "I'm sure I didn't do so well on the quiz because two months passed since I finished the book, but I still had a great time taking the quiz," he said.

The members of Readers Realm are now reading *13 Reasons Why*, a book by Jay Asher. "The book was

chosen the same way as *The Hunger Games*, by the survey the members took and a most popular list," said Ms. Lewis. Kent said, "I'm usually not into realistic books but, when I started reading *13 Reasons Why*, I was surprised to find it

really interesting."

Members who attend meetings have to show a pass, and are able to eat snacks during the meetings. "I'm so excited that Readers Realm started reading and will continue having meetings," said Ms. Lewis.



Book club makes reading fun again.

Look Out, Rochester

by Muneeza Ahmed

FBLA's 19 members are working together to win the Rochester competition by studying questions from old exams and textbooks, and going to FBLA Frenzy online.

Queens Voc's FBLA installation of officers took place on Tuesday, Dec. 13. At the installation, Mr. Marcel Veronneau, from the Astoria Lions Club, discussed the importance of being an entrepreneur and how students should prepare for job interviews. He said, "It is important to arrive on time and be neat."

The FBLA's officers are Andrea Sacharsky, president; Jonathan Castro, vice president; Brenda Jerez, secretary; Kevin Acosta, treasurer; Melissa Espinosa, reporter; Tina Callanan, historian; and Sonia Sanchez, parliamentarian.

"The FBLA members will compete in several business competitions on the state level," Ms. Mitchell, the FBLA advisor, said. Schools from throughout the state compete in the Rochester competition on topics ranging from business related topics to technology concepts.

Jonathan Castro said he



FBLA members celebrate FBLA week with Ms. Mitchell.

hopes the Queens Voc's FBLA members win in Rochester "because we have a pretty good group."

FBLA meetings are held during the last 20 minutes of eighth period every Tuesday. During these meetings, they discuss events such as a park clean up, and the Spring District Meeting, where people get together to plan activities at the Rochester competition.

The Spring District Meeting was held at the Tri-Community Junior High School on Springfield Blvd in Jamaica, NY. Four students from Queens Voc attended with Ms. Mitchell. FBLA members Jonathan Castro, Jahaira Paguay, Sonia Sanchez, and Suveer Seemangal participated in competitive events such as the basic decision making

elimination exam, state officer exam, and the economic district competition against other schools. During the meeting, the FBLA members participated in the coin challenge and raised \$18.67. This challenge was held for the Ronald McDonald House.

FBLA members held a bake sale on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, to raise money for their activities and Rochester trip.

FBLA National Community Service Day was Saturday, Feb. 11. FBLA members were scheduled to clean up Astoria Park, but the event was cancelled because of the weather.

Ms. Mitchell urges students and staff to drop off soda pop tops to room 412 during periods one, two, or eight during February.

was Chinggis Khan, also known as Genghis Khan. Khan lived from 1162 to 1227. He brought the tribes of Mongolia together and it became one of the most powerful Empires in world history.

During the winters, the temperature can reach -60° F in Mongolia. The Mongolians eat horses, goats, pigs, cows, and camels. Although they are sometimes used as food, Mongolians respect horses, and almost every family in Mongolia has at least one horse. One Mongolian tradition is that on the first day of school, kids race horses to school. Many Mongolians wear traditional clothes called a dell (similar to a tunic) and a hat. Mongolians value their traditional culture.

From Mr. Lopez's presentation, it's clear that Mongolians are very traditional and very friendly. They live a very tough life, mostly because of the climate and poor economy. His presentation was both interesting and educational. This presentation helped the students learn more about the Peace Corps and its missions, and Mongolia, a very interesting nation with a tremendous history.

Mongolians about our American culture.

Peace Corps is a U.S. government organization that was started in 1961. Peace Corps has three missions. The first is to get people interested in visiting other nations. The second is to educate other nations about American culture, and the third mission is to share the experience of other nations with the Americans.

Mongolia, located between Russia and China, is a developing country. The Empire of Mongolia [1206-1370] spread from Turkey to China in about 100 years. A very big influence on Mongolia



Peace Corp volunteer speaks to Ms. Kim's students.

GUEST ARTICLE: FROM MONGOLIA TO QUEENS VOC

by Sam Chowdhury

On December 20, Richard Lopez, a Peace Corps volunteer, spoke to Ms. Kim's fifth period class.

Mr. Lopez had returned from Mongolia, which is located in central Asia, where he had been an education volunteer from 2008 to 2010. During his time in Mongolia, he gained a lot of knowledge about Mongolia and educated

Queens Voc Cleans Up at Citywide Skills USA Competition

by Muhammad Allie

Seven schools took part in the citywide Skills USA competition on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Thomas Edison High School, said Mr. Rivera, a plumbing teacher and one of Queens Voc's Skills USA coordinators.

Queens Voc students took numerous top awards. Queens Voc swept 6 top spots in Cosmetology, with Zuleyma Pena and Vanina Romero in a tie for first, and Yaniri Infante in third among seniors, and Myra Andrews in first, Heather Clarke in second, and Edith Mesa in third among juniors.

Katherin Arias won first and Muhammad Allie took second in Industrial Motor Controls.

Ashley Deaza won first in Job Interview Skills.

James Batista won first in Pin Design.

Elixandria "Ellie" Brienza won first and Natalie Guanga took third in Residential Wiring.

Queens Voc swept in Plumbing, with Krzysztof Jakubowicz in first, Albert Ferrari in second, and Eamon Mansfield in third.

Queens Voc also swept Residential Systems Installation & Maintenance, with Miguel Anzures in first, Chi Lung Hsu in second, and Natanael Feitosa in third.

Sabrina Spiecker placed second in Job Demo A.

"The Queens Voc winners of the citywide competition will represent Queens Voc in the state competition," said Mr. Cintron.

Seventeen Queens Voc students participated in the competition.

"The purpose of the in-house competition," he said "is to pick a student to compete in the city competition," said Mr. Cintron. "Other SLCs are not

certain if they will have an in-house competition this year," he added. "To compete, students had to have their CTE's teacher permission," said Mr. Rivera.

"SSBT did not have an in-house competition this year because there weren't enough participants," said Mr. Cintron, an electrical installation teacher and Skills USA coordinator.

In the citywide competition, Elixandria Brienza, Natalie Guanga, and Diego Palacios competed in residential wiring; Katherin Arias and Muhammad Allie competed in industrial motor control; Albert Ferrari, Kenal Ortega, Gregory Guevara competed in plumbing; Natanael Feitosa, Raymond Xue, and Islam Azharul competed in computer repair and maintenance; Sabrina Spiecker competed in job demonstration; Ashley Deaza competed in job interview skills; Chi Lung Hsu and Miguel Anzures competed in residential cable; Melanie Bastardo competed in prepared speech; James Batista competed in pin design; and Zuleyma Pena competed in cosmetology.

"There are 93 different competitions available for students in Skills USA," said Mr. Rivera.

"To help Skills USA finance their competitions, members fundraise by selling candy. They are also planning to hold a bake sale and a food festival. Queens Voc's Skills USA chapter also sends out letters to sponsors for contribution," said Mr. Cintron.

Students develop different skills in Skills USA "such as resume writing, internal personal discipline, organization skills, problem solving, professionalism, social skills, leadership skills, and career and technical skills," said Mr. Rivera. "Most of all, it teaches students self-respect and how to prepare for the real world," he added.



Celebrating cosmo's citywide sweep at Skills USA.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR TRIAL

by Chorten Dolma

Queens Voc's mock trial season has begun, with new members, a new case, and a new experience.

"It's a criminal case for this year," said Mr. Davidson, a social studies teacher who is the coordinator of mock trial in Queens Voc. "Students find criminal cases interesting and challenging, especially since the crime took place right here in Queens," he said.

In the case, *People of the State of New York v. P. J. Long*, P. J. Long is accused of a vicious attack on Dana Malone. It is supposed that one morning, Dana accidentally spilled coffee on Mr. Long while they were going to work; Mr. Long became angry. When Ms. Malone was going home, someone hit her on her head from behind, knocking her out. Because of the earlier incident, she suspected and accused P. J. Long.

The first meeting of the

mock trial team was held on Wednesday, Dec. 21, during period nine. Mr. Davidson distributed the facts of the case during this meeting. The team has been meeting throughout January and February to prepare.

Eleven students are on the team: Shady Albakry, James Batista, Jathzia Farro, Denise Guallpa, Tanisha Northington, Zuleyma Pena, Christopher Perez, Jarin Rahman, Evelin Ramirez, Lorissa Rosario, and Daniela Vidal.

"Mock Trial is open to any students in all grades," stated Mr. Davidson. "They only have to be willing to do the work involved to prepare for the competition."

During the meetings, students read the witness statements and decide which witnesses they want to portray. There are three witnesses on each side and each witness has his or her own lawyer, portrayed by the other group members.

Mr. Davidson said his

role as a mentor is to "work with the students, listen to the team's questions, and make suggestions." A real lawyer will also work with the students and help them with the questions and make suggestions about how to improve their performance.

In the first round, there are two competitions. The first one will take place either on Feb. 28, Feb. 29, or March 1 and the second one will take place on either March 6, 7, or 8. Both will be held at Queens Supreme Court in Kew Gardens.

In the first competition, the lawyers and witnesses on the defendant's side will compete with another school. In the second competition, the lawyers and witness on the prosecutor's side will compete with another school. The judge will then announce who wins the case right after the competition. Each student's performance in the group is graded, which totals up the final score.

Mock trial allows "students to learn about law and experience what a trial is like," said Mr. Davidson. "It is also a good opportunity to improve speaking, questioning, and thinking skills."

Yearbook Hits the Pages



Lorissa & others lay out seniors' book of memories.

by John Tosado

The yearbook committee is hard at work assembling the 2012 yearbook.

Recently, the committee has been focused on pages for senior portraits, the senior trip, and baby pictures. Ms. Green, who has been co-advisor with Ms. DeCarlo, will be on hiatus from the committee for personal reasons.

Yearbook members Stacey Carrasco and Dariana Fana say that pages for senior portraits, the senior trip, senior elections, shops, clubs, staff, dances, and the breast cancer walk have been created.

Senior class personality categories have been chosen

and nominations were made on Feb. 2 and 3. The personalities are head-turner, class clown, class sweetheart, best smile, most likely to succeed, teacher's pest, most athletic, most outspoken, most fun to be with/party animal, most shy, and cutest couple.

Students on the yearbook committee are each assigned a specific page. They design a template, which involves colors for the page, and the placement of pictures and captions.

Earlier this year, the yearbook committee planned and coordinated the Senior Glow Out.

Senior Oscar Night plans are underway, although no date has been set, the advisor said.

Seniors Embrace Their Last Year

by Daniela Vidal

"When seniors come back from the senior trip, they come back united. They have participated in activities together for the first time with the people they been with for four years," said Mr. Vega, senior advisor.

The senior trip was held January 13-15, at Honor's Haven Resort Spa in Ellenville, New York. According to Mr. Vega, 100 seniors attended. The cost of the trip was \$279, plus extra costs for activities such as paintball and horseback riding. Skiing and snow-boarding were unavailable because of the lack of snow. The trip was a lot of fun, according to the seniors who attended. "It was

amazing! I loved senior trip," said May Lin.

Oscar Night will be held in March, according to Ms. DeCarlo. At Oscar Night, awards are given to seniors nominated for each of the senior class personality categories. Nominations took place Feb. 2 and Feb. 3. Seniors will vote to select the winner in each category. "It's a red carpet event, we encourage students to dress up but it's not obligated," said Ms. DeCarlo. "It's a fun event to attend and the audience is open to non-seniors as well," she said.

Seniors had to pay their dues of \$135 by February 1. The senior dues include the yearbook, t-shirt, diploma case, cap and gown, and photo sitting fee. Candy fundraising has been available to help defray the cost of dues and prom. Each box sold helps raise \$25 towards senior expenses. Seniors who would like more information should see Mr. Vega in room 143.

QV's Geek Squad

by Runqing Fang

MOUSE Squad members have been working on system migration, and changing school computers from Windows XP to Windows Vista or Windows 7, said Mr. Sookchan, an SVA, who was assisting Mr. David, instructor of MOUSE Squad.

The MOUSE Squad has completed reimaging 26 computers in room 403 and the two computers in room 147.

"When reimaging, we make an exact copy of an operating system, whether it's XP, Vista, or Windows 7, and use that copy as the default computer operating system for another system," Mr. Sookchan said.

Mr. David said they reimagine the computers to keep the exact settings on every computer and to save the trouble of setting up the computers individually.

Mrs. Newman, an assistant principal, said that MOUSE Squad members also replaced all the computers in room 407.

"These students apply the knowledge they have gained in C-Tech to fix computers," Mr. Sookchan said. "Students in MOUSE Squad take care of computers in the building," Mr.



Randy working to keep school's PCs running.

David said. Mr. Sookchan said the student leaders in MOUSE Squad are "very competent individuals, but have quite a way to go before they become leaders in a corporate job."

Mr. Sookchan said students sometimes have problems managing computers, but "Mr. David and I help the students overcome problems they may face," he said.

MOUSE Squad members stay after school to fix computers. Some students volunteer in MOUSE Squad and others get paid. Luis Cruz, a senior MOUSE Squad leader who is a paid member,

said members have to be more than useful to MOUSE Squad and prove themselves to be qualified for the payroll. Luis said people on the payroll are usually more responsible. "We are the ones who get counted on the most by teachers," he said.

The members in MOUSE Squad are: Muneeza Ahmed, Eric Aucapina, Htet Aung, Marjah Bakth, Philip Borisuck Jr., Johana Calle, Jashua Cora, Luis Cruz, Krytian Czauz, Jonathan Gordon, Gurkirat Hans, Valentin Martinez, Sylvester Nimako, Constantinos Papakostas, Samuel Point Du Jour, and Randy Prashad.

Customize Your Own Pins

**In Room 346
During your lunch period.
Come & support
your RoboTigers.**





Students get firsthand experience with the law.

We the People Competition The Constitution in Action

by Alice Chee

On a cold Saturday morning in December, 33 of Mr. Davidson’s honors US Government students got up from their beds to participate in the We the People Competition at Martin Luther King, Jr. High School.

Queens Voc came in sixth place out of the nine NYC schools that participated. “I’m disappointed that we didn’t win first, second, or third place. But I am very proud of how the students answered the questions,” said Mr. Davidson.

May Lin, a student from Mr. Davidson’s class, said that “We were upset that we didn’t have a place in the top three,” but, she said, she was proud “that our unit two group, ‘How did the framers create the Constitution,’ received an award for the best

unit two presentations.”

Mr. Davidson, who has been involved in this competition since 1987, said that this year’s group from Queens Voc is the largest because almost everyone in the class participated. This competition is organized by the Justice Resource Center, which coordinates law programs in New York City.

“We the People Competition helps students develop a lot of skills including speaking, poise, and critical thinking,” said Mr. Davidson. Sandra Jarro, one of Mr. Davidson’s students, said the competition “enhanced my knowledge of the Constitution, my speaking skills, and my presentation skills.”

Mr. Davidson said the students’ strengths were working together as a team and answering the questions thoroughly. He said the students

could improve by giving more examples, managing time better, and being more aware of current events so that they can relate to the questions.

The judges who graded the presentations consisted of teachers, lawyers, and judges. “I was really nervous when I found out the judges of the competition were lawyers and real judges,” said Sandra. “But as we presented, they were really nice. They gave honest and helpful feedback to help us improve our presentations,” she said. Mr. Davidson was also pleased with the judges’ feedback. “I thought the judges were very helpful and they noted the strengths and areas of improvement to the students. I was very pleased when the judges complimented the audience’s respect to the presenters,” he said.

Jonathan Castro wasn’t completely pleased. “I disliked how some of the judges focused their follow up questions on one student in particular. It pressured the student. I also disliked how all nine schools got an award, regardless if they worked hard enough or not,” he said.

“The purpose of the We the People Competition is to celebrate the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and to prepare young people to become active citizens,” said Mr. Davidson. “One of the reasons that I’ve been involved in this competition since 1987 is because I think it’s worthwhile. I wish more schools in NYC would compete because it is a great experience for the students,” he also said.

School Leadership Team Works to Improve Queens Voc

by Zuleyma Pena

Working together is what the School Leadership Team is about.

Priscilla Delgado, a member of the team, said that the SLT can be viewed as “a president’s cabinet.” This school-based organization includes parents, students, and teachers who advise the principal on school issues and work to make the school a better learning community. “It’s a great way to find out what is going on in the school and to speak about what you think needs to be fixed,” said SED representative Jordan Balcacer. Kevin Hernandez, SCEET representative, said he likes being on “the SLT because it shows what’s happening in

the school.”

All members have a voice at the meetings. They may address problems or issues they believe are relevant to the school.

The team advises the principal and helps create the school’s Comprehensive Education Plan. The CEP sets goals for the school. Some of the goals are increasing graduation rate by 2%, increasing all Regents grades from a passing 65 to a 75 which avoids taking remedial classes in college, and increasing the student attendance rate from 88% to 90%.

The SLT “has really been an excellent source for me as a new principal. I really appreciate all the support and suggestions on ways to improve the school,”

said Ms. Burg.

The SLT meets every month in the school library. In the meeting that took place in December, one issue brought up was iZone, which Ms. Burg wants to bring to Queens Voc. iZone is an online program that allows students to make up credits they might be missing, and offers PSAT practice and advance college-level courses. She said it has worked in other schools and it is in Queens Voc’s budget.

Another issue that was brought up was the broken weight room equipment. Some of the equipment has been broken for two or more years. Some solutions discussed at the meeting were getting new equipment or having the current equipment repaired and getting a service contract to keep it working. Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal for organization, said he is trying to make a deal for all new machines. If the deal is possible, the new

FINANCIAL LITERACY EXAM

by Alexis Crespin

Becoming financially literate means “being able to handle your money,” said Mr. Davidson, a social studies teacher and Gold Star financial literacy teacher.

Last year, 94 percent of the students in Mr. Davidson’s classes passed the online financial literacy test, earning him the Gold Star designation. Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Schimenz, who taught an economics class together, had an 85 percent passing rate, and 75 percent of the students in Mr. Zambrotta’s three classes passed. This course is taught at Queens Voc in the fall to senior business classes, and in the spring to economics classes.

This fall, senior business students in Mr. Alohan’s, and Mr. Mugan’s classes took the online test. Fifty-seven percent of Mr. Mugan’s 19 seniors passed, while 86 percent of Mr. Alohan’s 15 students passed. Mr. Mugan said he has been teaching financial literacy on and off for 10 years. “I am extremely disappointed that 43 percent didn’t pass,” he said. I would like to teach financial literacy again, and to improve next year’s score, he is putting more emphasis on financial literacy in his junior class.

Last year, Queens Voc earned the designation as a Blue Star school. To become a Blue Star school, 75 percent or more of the students must pass

the certification test, and either personal finance instruction is provided to the majority of the students on a senior grade level, or the average score on the test is 80 percent. Queens Voc’s passing rate was 80.7 percent.

Any student who scores a 95 or more becomes a financial scholar, and is presented with an award and medal at the Museum of Finance on Wall Street. Last year, one Queens Voc student in Mr. Davidson’s class, Christofer Rodriguez, scored a 96.

Mr. Davidson first taught financial literacy to his Economics class in 2010. In 2011, the program was offered to all Economics classes in the school.

“It’s good way to gain knowledge and experience,” and helps with college and job applications, said Mr. Zambrotta. Mr. Z’s class did well last year, he said, considering, he was informed late, and started in March instead of February. This year, he plans to do better.

The goal of the financial literacy program is to provide high school students “with economic decision-making skills they can use throughout their futures,” stated Muriel F. Siebert, developer of A Personal Finance Program. Students learn aspects of finance such as taxes, budgeting, credit, banking, protecting themselves from identity theft, and much more, according to the Personal Finance Program handbook.

The financial literacy program provides “training for teachers and curriculum for the students,” said Ms. Newman, director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies.

machines will be purchased and installed by February 2013.

Adults on the SLT are: Ms. Burg, principal; Mr. Harrington, UFT chapter leader; Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal; Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Schimenz, teacher representatives; Ms. Vega, parent association president; and Ms. Kiourkenidis, Ms. Robinson, Ms. Rychalski,

and Ms. Sacharsky, parent representatives. Students on the SLT are: Maximilian Manticoff and Kevin Hernandez, SCEET; Priscilla Delgado and Salvatore Isabella, SSBT; Andrea Sacharsky and Daniel Corona, SES; Jordan Balcacer, SED.

Students who have concerns should speak with their SLT representatives who can bring the concern up at meetings.

Students: if you have any concerns or suggestions talk to your SLT Representatives:

SES Andrea Sacharsky Daniel Corona	SCEET Kevin Hernandez Maximilian Manticof
SSBT Priscilla Delgado Salvatore Isabella	SED Jordan Balcacer

News From Your SLCs

SCHOOL OF SKILLED BUILDING TRADES

by Luis Gonzales

Queens Voc has recruited students for the Skills USA competitions, including the citywide competition held at Edison High School on Saturday, Feb. 11.

In April, the state competition will be held in Syracuse, NY. The competitions focus not only on vocational skills but also on basic job skills such as speech, interviewing skills, computer maintenance, and math skills, said Mr. Cintron.

Mr. Cintron and Mr. Rivera took 19 competing members to the citywide competition: Muhammad Allie, Miguel Anzures, Katherin Arias, Islam Azharul, Melanie Bastardo, James Batista, Elixandria Brienza, Ashley Deaza, Natanael Feitosa, Albert Ferrari, Natalie Guanga, Gregory Guevara, Chi Lung Hsu, Yaniri Infante, Kenal Ortega, Diego Palacios, Zuleyma Pena, Sabrina Spiecker, and Raymond Xue. Five observers also attended.

Based on the results from the citywide competition, the CTE teachers will select the Queens Voc students who will participate in the state competition. Competitors who place in first place in their citywide competition qualify

to represent New York in the national competition in June, the competition will be held in Kansas, Missouri. Prizes are given out to competitors who finish in first, second, and third place. Past prizes have been tool kits and scholarships.

Students are trained by their shop teachers. Katherin Arias, a second time competitor, competed in the industrial motor control competition. She trained with Mr. Maloney in the week before the competition to refresh her knowledge of motor controls, conduit bending, and schematics of motor control systems, she said. "I like the aspect of competing in the trade you've practiced in the last 3 years," Katherin said.

Another student who competed in the citywide competition was Gregory Guevara, a first time competitor. He participated in the plumbing competition by constructing a plumbing system, he said. Gregory said that not only did he like showing his vocational skills, but he also liked to communicate and learn with other people who are also dedicated to their vocational skills. He trained with Mr. Rivera by constructing systems that were given to him in class.

Students can join Skills

USA by paying \$5 to become active members. In previous years, students had to pay the full \$65 for membership dues, but this year, according to Mr. Cintron, the Department of Education paid their dues.

"Skills USA is a national organization that is used to promote high school students to be better prepared for the world of work once the graduate high school," said Mr. Cintron, who is co-advisor with Mr. Rivera.

The School of Skilled Building Trades honored their top students at the awards ceremony on Dec. 14, in the school auditorium. The awards ceremony recognized students who did well in their academic and shop classes for the second marking period. The categories of awards given were: best in class, honor roll, class professionalism, and perfect attendance. The ceremony was coordinated by Ms. Sartori, the newly appointed SSBT coordinator.

"Working in SSBT is really great for me because all of my fellow teachers work really hard, and it makes my job a lot easier," said Ms. Sartori.

Over the past four years, SSBT students' grades have improved, Ms. Sartori said. The biggest improvement is the results on the ELA Regents. This year, the SSBT teachers are focusing on the U.S. History and Global History Regents exams, she said.

local shoemakers around the world. The shoemakers clean up the used shoes to sell as semi-new shoes and use the profits they make to help support their families. Brittany Aiello, who is currently interning with Ms. Dattner, brought up the idea of participating in the Soles 4 Soles drive. This collection isn't only for the freshmen; it is open to all students. They informed the students of this event by making announcements and hanging up flyers around the school. The box is in room 143. Once the boxes are filled, they will be shipped to the Soles4Souls headquarters in New Jersey.

Students in SED have had good attendance, including 87 students with perfect attendance since September. In the third marking period, SED had a 92% attendance rate.

Freshmen Leadership meets with Ms. Ferrara and Mr. Elfreich on Mondays after period 9 in room 111. All freshmen students are welcome.

ADVANCE

by Jonathan Gordon

New doors have opened for the 38 students in the Advance SLC. The students can make up credits online through APEX, and attend trips that serve as rewards for improved attendance and report card grades.

APEX, a credit recovery program, "helps encourage students to stay in school and graduate, since traditional education doesn't seem to address the students' needs," said Mrs. Kramer, a special education teacher, and the director of Advance.

"One of the objectives of Advance is to increase the attendance of students who had attendance issues in the 9th grade," said Mrs. Kramer. "The current attendance rate is at 60 percent," she said.

About 30 Advance students attended a free trip to The Metropolitan Museum of Art on September 20. The purpose of the trip was to introduce different types of art and exhibits. The students also participated in a scavenger hunt. After that, they proceeded to Central Park for a

picnic lunch.

Those in Advance also had a bowling trip, a reward for students who improved their attendance and passed the marking period.

Mr. Diamont and Ms. Elbettah coordinated a reward luncheon, which took place a week after the distribution of report cards, specifically for students who had passed the first marking period.

Ten of the students in Advance went on a trip to The Fashion Institute of Technology to participate in the I Will Graduate program, which conveys to students throughout the city the importance of education, obtaining a high school diploma, and pursuing higher education.

Next up for Advance is an ice-skating trip, another incentive for improved attendance. The trip will most likely take place in February, said Mrs. Kramer. An annual trip to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York will be take place in March or April, and a trip to the American Museum of Natural History will take place in April or May, she added.

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES

by Philip Borisuck Jr.

"We have studied in the 10th and 11th year," he said.

SCEET's computer technology seniors are being prepared by Mr. David for the A+ Certification test to get their CTE endorsement. The A+ test is the first step into the information technology field, Mr. David said. To prepare his class, Mr. David is incorporating "labs, real world applications, and homework," into the workload for seniors. Mr. David assigns work to his senior class that involves "dealing with faulty CPUs and motherboards, as well as anything hands on from what

The robotics team, which began its season back on Nov. 30, has been training to operate a fully functioning robot for this year's competition.

SCEET is also planning a trip for "any student who is demonstrating mastery in computers or electronics, and academics," said Mr. Raushan, an electronics teacher and SCEET coordinator. "Any student who demonstrates this will go on a special trip to Six Flags." The Six Flags trip is still a work in progress, said Mr. Raushan.

SCHOOL OF EXPLORATION & DISCOVERY

by Tina Marie Callanan

Queens Voc held a CTE night for all freshmen and Advance students, on Thursday Feb. 16, to help them decide what major they want to take. During the CTE Night, the students were allowed to attend up to three CTE demonstrations to help them make their decision. According to Ms. Dattner, the 9th grade guidance counselor, the deadline for freshmen to hand in their choices is March 23.

The freshmen received their SED shirts on Tuesday, Dec. 20, according to Ms. Dattner. She is trying to see if there could be an incentive for the freshmen to wear their SED shirt every Tuesday.

On Feb. 14, SED had an awards ceremony for freshmen to acknowledge the ninth graders' achievements. Some students received awards for perfect attendance since the start of school in September, and others were given certificates for passing all classes in the marking period. Students were also recognized for having an overall average of 85 or above throughout the year.

The students participated in a Soles 4 Souls drive from Jan. 30 through March 2. The students collected gently used shoes and give it to those that are in need. All shoes are acceptable: new, old, sneakers, sandals, boots, etc. said Ms. Dattner. According to the Soles 4 Souls website, over 1.5 billion pairs of shoes lay idle in American closets, many of which can be saved from landfills by sending them to Soles 4 Souls. Over 300 million children around the world are without shoes. The shoes that cannot be worn are given to

What's going on in your SLC?

Let us know what's up.

Email us at Editor@VocVoice.org or put a note in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the Main Office to have us cover your SLC or classroom events.

Saving Lives One Drop at a Time



Alex said he'd give 'til it hurts - but it didn't hurt.

by Tina Pahlad

Forty-nine people took some time out of their schedules recently to donate blood and save lives.

On Monday, Dec. 12, sixty-one units of blood were collected in Queens Voc's latest blood drive.

Of the 108 people who were signed up to donate, 78 showed up, 29 of whom were turned

down because they didn't meet the requirements.

Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities (COSA), and his 11th grade leadership students, along with Jessica Polanco, the senior class vice president, organized this event. The blood drive took place in the auditorium. Mr. Vega and his helpers began to set up at 6:30am and donors began to arrive at 8:10am.

Cristian Diaz, a senior

electronics major, was one of those donors. "I felt I should be generous," he said, explaining why he donates. Isaac Morales, a junior electronics major, said, "It's good that Queens Voc held a blood drive. This year I couldn't donate because I'm under age, but I definitely would like to donate next year."

The leadership members and Jessica Polanco went around the school staff members and recruiting students who were at least seventeen-years old. During the blood drive, there were three areas for donors, while they waited to donate. The first area was where the donors went to see the nurse from the New York Blood Center to see if they were eligible to donate. The second area was on the stage, where the blood was taken. The last area was for participants to have a snack and some juice, because they weren't allowed to leave the auditorium without eating. After donating, donors were not allowed to leave for at least

twenty minutes.

Potential donors had to fill out a medical form and have their blood pressure and iron level checked.

Kelly Laynes, a junior who helped organize the blood drive, said she "was too scared to donate blood but I was proud to help out by assisting donors."

Mr. Vega said, "I would like to thank all the donors. It's a little scary and gets you nervous but people tried. Their heart was in the right place." Jessica Polanco said, "Just the fact of saving someone's life is definitely worth it."



Leadership students helped run the blood drive.

"When I'm eligible, I will definitely donate. I think it's a great cause," she said.

Mr. Vega is planning another blood drive in May. Jessica Polanco said that she and the leadership members learned from this blood drive and will push for a greater outcome in the spring.

Because of the 17-year old age requirement, the blood drive was dominated by seniors.

"I feel that the blood drive was a success, even with the strict weight requirement that was increased 20 lbs from the previous year," said Mr. Vega.

'Tis the Season to be Rhyming Himmel's New Holiday Open Mic Tradition

by Yanil Ortiz

Queens Vocational and Technical High School had its first holiday open mic night on Tuesday Dec. 20, with seven participants: Ms. Burg and six students. Fifteen tickets were sold.

Open mic night took place in the school's auditorium from 4:30pm to 7pm. Tickets cost \$1 for Student Organization members and \$2 for non SO members. Mr. Daniel sold the tickets, and during the intermission he sold snacks.

The money raised from the tickets and snacks was donated to the boys' JV basketball team.

Mrs. Himmel, an English teacher, said she came up with the idea for this event. "It was a nice thing to do, it was what we needed during this time of year to break up the Queens Voc routine," she said.

Mr. Daniel, coach of the boys' JV basketball team, helped Mrs. Himmel. "This event was for our students and staff to find a way to celebrate the holidays by coming together as a family," he said.

"I thought it was a lot of fun, it's always great for kids to show off their talents," Ms. Burg added. "I opened up the holiday open mic night with a poem I wrote welcoming everybody," said Ms. Burg. Friends and family were

welcomed at this event to support the participants.

Gabrielle Butler, Quentin Diego, Maria Estrada, Kimberly Fernandez, Sal Isabella, Andy Urueta recited poetry. Gabrielle recited two poems, "Hallowed Dreams" and "The Grand Quest," which she wrote herself. Quentin rapped "It Ain't Hard to Tell" by Nas and "Young One," which he wrote himself. Maria rapped "Ambitious Girl" by Wale. Kimberly recited two poems, a Tupac poem and a poem she wrote herself called "The Drug of Companionship." Sal recited three poems, "A Distant Star no Longer so Far," "Thank you Mom," and "Happy Holidays."

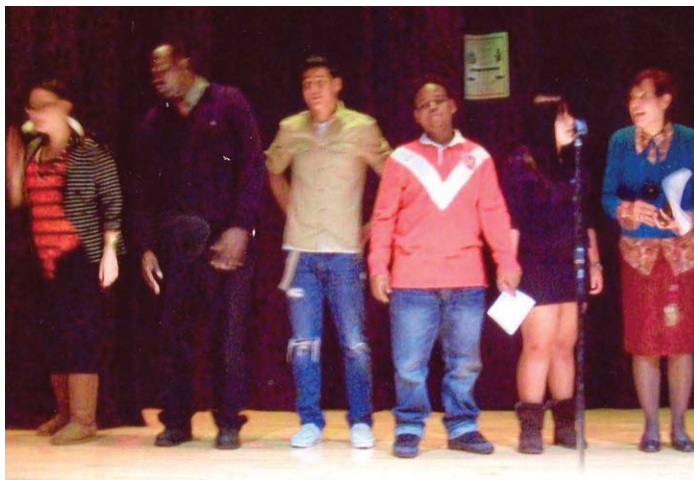
"It was nice to be able to express ourselves," said Kimberly. "We expected more people to come and support," said Maria. Gustav Danquah, a

member of the technical crew, agreed. "We needed a greater audience," he said.

"I think this event was successful. My expectations overall were met as far as student participation, quality of poems, and different styles of poetry," said Mrs. Himmel. "Everyone got into the spirit of the event and everyone cooperated," she added.

Muhammad Allie and Andrew Labissiere were also members of the technical crew and helped set up this event with Gustav in the auditorium. "We had fun helping out," said Andrew, who was the DJ and photographer for this event.

"We would like to thank Mrs. Himmel for giving us this opportunity to be heard," said Maria and Kimberly. Ms. Burg also thanked Mrs. Himmel for putting this all together.



Queens Voc poets on stage taking their bows.

Mr. Garcia, graphic arts teacher, came up with the designs that were used for the flyers to promote the event, and Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, and his leadership class posted the flyers.

"I want to give a special shout out to the students of the 11th grade in my third period English class, they really helped to get the word out!" said Mrs.

Himmel. "I'd like to thank Joe Dossantos, Isaiah George, Kris Jakubowicz, Leidy Jaquez, Eamon Mansfield, Seida Muratovic, Kimberly Ramlal, and Andy Uruety," she said.

Mrs. Himmel said she is hoping next year's open mic night will have a bigger turn out. She is considering scheduling the holiday open mic night earlier next year rather than right before the holidays.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY TO COLLEGE

by Daniela Vidal

Senior year isn't only about having fun, but also seniors deciding what they want to do with their lives. CUNY and SUNY have begun notifying seniors of their acceptance. But seniors who have not yet submitted an application still have a chance. "There is no specific deadline to submit a CUNY application, but applications for SEEK had to be submitted in January," said Ms. Abrams, the college advisor. She urges seniors to complete a college application but before submitting the form, she said, she will verify that the application is completed correctly.

The FAFSA, the financial aid application, is now available. The application can be submitted by January 1 but "most families wait until February or March until they complete their tax returns,"

said Ms. Abrams. Financial aid is limited so it's important seniors submit the FAFSA as soon as possible. For more information regarding scholarships, Ms. Abrams said, seniors should visit the school website, and click on College and Career Counseling Center, to find important to guide seniors to scholarship information.

"One hundred and ninety two students are fully on-track 12th grade seniors," said Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of Queens Voc. "Three hundred and thirty students are supposed to graduate," she said. Seniors who are missing required credits should speak with their guidance counselor to take credit recovery classes for the missing courses, said Ms. Ocampo. Students in homerooms 251, 261, and 271 who are in the cohort that is supposed to graduate this year, must speak to Ms. Ocampo.

by Sylvester Nimako

R=AIN, Queens Voc's Gay-Straight Alliance, has had some new activities this year including a potluck dinner and trips to see theatrical plays. "I hope the new activities show people what we are about and that they are always welcome to join," said Priscilla Delgado, president of R=AIN.

On Thursday, Jan. 26, and Tuesday, Jan. 31, members of R=AIN went to see a musical starring Nick Jonas as J. Pierrepont Finch in "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying." The play was about the misadventure of a young window washer who read a book titled "How to Succeed in Business." He follows the book's advice, and using a bit of his own quick thinking and tricks, goes from the mail room to becoming the chairman of the board. "The play has humor, love, and intrigue," Ms. Kurnitz, SPARK counselor and coordinator of R=AIN, said. "I ended up seeing it twice. I really enjoyed seeing the play we did

R=AIN's on Broadway



R=AIN and its members meet to discuss fundraising.

in my senior year. Nick Jonas surprised me; he was really good. I was happy I could bring all 48 students who wanted to see it," she said. Josue Cruz, a member of R=AIN, said the play "was good. The play was hilarious and I thought Nick Jonas did really well."

On Sunday, Jan. 22, three members went with Ms. Kurnitz to Broadway to see "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever," starring Harry Connick Jr. It was a re-conceived version of the

original. In this version, David Gamble, a gay, chain smoking florist, went to psychiatrist Mark Bruckner (Harry Connick Jr.), who was experimenting with hypnosis for help to quit smoking and have a better love life. When hypnotized, David surprisingly transforms to his "past life" as a dazzling jazz singer named Melinda Wells. This begins a twisted love affair. "It was beautiful, I loved Harry Connick Jr., and it made me happy that the kids enjoyed it,"

Ms. Kurnitz said. Justin Velez, vice president of R=AIN, said the play "was great. I loved the music and the girl was pretty."

On Friday, Jan. 20, a representative from GMHC, Tyrone Smith, went to talk to the members about safe sex. GMHC stands for Gay Men's Health Crisis, a non-profit organization that was founded in 1982, and was one of the first organizations to lead the fight against AIDS. The members of R=AIN learned about ways to protect themselves and their partners. Mr. Smith also discussed counseling available for any problems members of the gay community might face. Tina Pahlad said she "learned that there are counseling services for guys to talk about their problems. That was really interesting."

R=AIN members went to Frank Sinatra high school on Thursday, Jan. 12, to see the play "The Names That Hurt." The play was about words some people use that adversely affect others, such as the n-word, and other insulting words based on

race, color, nationality, sexual orientation, etc. They explained the meaning of the words in their slang form and their true meaning. Naiya Bustamante, co-president of R=AIN, "found the play influential. Every monologue was true to the point and the actors seemed like adults up there and had a lot of talent. I want them to come here; I think it would impact a lot of people," she said. The play was written by students at Frank Sinatra in 2003, and has been performed numerous times over the years.

A potluck dinner was held on Thursday, Dec. 22. Priscilla Delgado, Naiya Bustamante, Maria Gibaja, and other members brought in food for a pre-holiday celebration. About 20 people attended, including several 2011 graduates. Pasta, chicken, macaroni and cheese, flan, soda, two gallons of Hawaiian Punch, and iced tea were served. "I was very happy with the number of people that could make it," Ms. Kurnitz said, "we had a great time being together as a family."

Rise of the RoboTigers

by Kelly-Ann Kato

The robotics club kicked off its new season on Saturday, Jan. 7, with 32 official members, ranging from freshmen to seniors. The club competes against other schools throughout the state.

At the kick-off, the club learned what the robot's task will be for this year's competition, which is being called Rebound Rumble. This year the robot has to play basketball with the other competing teams. On Wednesday, Jan. 11, Peter Beninati, a Queens Voc graduate who is mentoring the current club members, explained the competition to the club members. Peter explained how points and penalties are received in the competition.

The club members have begun to build robot prototypes

and are testing the prototypes out on practice "field elements," said sophomore Thalia Cia. "It's a slow process that needs patience and hard work," added junior Khiran Samsundar.

"Any student from any major can participate in the robotics club," said Mr. Ali, who leads the club. Safreen Akbar, a junior majoring in cosmetology and a captain of the team, was a freshman when she first joined. "My sister brought me to see the team and I loved the environment of the team," said Safreen.

The club helps the members of the club by "providing a foundation of engineering and technology for what the students will encounter in the future," said Mr. Ali. "The purpose of the robotics club is to interest students in science and engineering careers, and to give

students experiences that they wouldn't be able to get until college or even their career," said Peter.

The club members were chosen through an interview. The potential members were asked why they wanted to join the club and what they thought about the club. "We want people who will support the team," said Safreen, "and not people who are just there to gain hours." Maximilian Manticof, the other captain of the club, said he participates in the club by helping to design the structure of the robot.

Last year the robotics club, known throughout Queens Voc as RoboTigers, placed fifth out of 16. The Robotics club competes in the US FIRST Robotics Competition, which begins with regional competitions within the states. In New York, there are three regional competitions: the New York City Regional, Small Business Partnership of Long Island (SBPLI) Regional, and Finger Lakes Regional. During the competition, the club is known as Team 1796. There are 3,883 teams that compete internationally for this competition, said Brian Green, who is also a Queens Voc graduate mentoring the current club members. The club has to get its own sponsors for the team. Some of the sponsors the club has are Port Authority of NY & NJ and Con Edison.

The club meets every Wednesday in room 346 after school.



Students working on RoboTigers shooter prototype.

Battle of the Shops

by Marcia Leva

It was the battle of the shop classes for the annual City Harvest at Queens Voc, which took place Nov. 28 through Dec. 23. The "battle" was based on CTE classes collecting canned foods to help homeless shelters, it's a time filled with giving and lending a helping hand. The donations were collected in room 143.

In the end, Mr. Yu's sophomore class won by a slim margin against Ms. Zagada's junior class. Mr. Yu's class collected 1,223 items and Ms. Zagada's class collected 1,131 items.

Ms. Ramdeo's junior class came in third place, collecting 694 items. Overall, the school donated 3,000 pounds of food for City Harvest.

Mr. Vega and junior Maria Abbasi helped coordinate the City Harvest collection at the school. Mr. Vega said he enjoys running the event every year, "especially around the holidays, to help the ones who need it the most," he said. The event is held to "fill food pantries throughout the city for the homeless shelters especially during holidays," said Mr. Vega.

Mr. Yu was happy with the win, his second in a row. This year's class, he said, collected double what last year's class did. "It's nice to do this because it brought out class spirit and it was for a good cause," said

Mr. Yu. Kevin Perez, one of his students, said, "I enjoyed doing this. I think I donated about 100 cans." Another student, Omar Silva, said, "I collected about 100 cans also, I went to different supermarkets to check out the prices and look for quality." Mr. Yu will be taking the whole class ice-skating and then to eat at the Hard Rock Cafe. Students who didn't do well on a test got a boost if they collected 100 cans, and if they collected 50 cans you got a boost on a quiz grade. For example, he said, if a student got an 80 on a quiz, it would go up to a 90 or 95.

The seven CTE classes that participated in the Battle of the Shops were: Mr. Yu's sophomores, Mr. Raushan's sophomores, Ms. Zagada's juniors, Ms. Ramdeo's juniors, Mr. Mendez's juniors, Ms. Quartuccio's seniors, and Mrs. Gonzales's seniors.



Mr. Yu's winning bounty.

Editorials

Wrestling with a Dilemma

In December, Principal Burg asked Mr. Zambrotta, the wrestling coach, to step down for the rest of the season because he had used ineligible wrestlers in two different matches. Mr. Zambrotta had to give up the team he started in 2008.

In the four years that passed, the wrestling team went through four different wrestling divisions. In his first year as coach, during the 2008-2009 school year, the team went undefeated with an 8-0 record in the developmental division. The following season, the team went 7-4 in the B-East division. The team moved up to the Large School A-Central division in the 2010–2011 season and went 5-5. This year, they were in the Queens North division. The team started off strong with a 2-0 record. Then came the forfeit, followed by the coach’s resignation. The Queens Voc wrestling team finished the season 2-5 as numerous players quit.

What the coach did was wrong. We’re sure he knows that. His decision to wrestle ineligible players hurt the team and it hurt his reputation.

What can’t be taken away is the fact that he developed a solid program and motivated many students to wrestle—and to wrestle well. Mr. Zambrotta kept improving the team through hard work, dedication, and seriousness. Mr. Zambrotta is an experienced coach and has proven to our school community—and each school he has faced as a wrestling coach—that he has the skills to develop wrestlers and motivate students.

When next year begins, we hope that Mr. Zambrotta will be given a chance to show that he can move forward and learn from his mistakes. He should be appointed wrestling coach once again. And by following all the PSAL rules, he should coach with pride and dignity, and restore the reputation of the program he himself created.

Get With the Program

Recycling at Queens Voc is a joke. Regular garbage is tossed into any receptacle, despite the effort to provide multiple receptacles and to label them. Ms. Moreau and her students have even created covers that clearly specify which garbage belongs in which pails. But that’s just it. Many people see it all as garbage. And many more don’t want to be bothered spending a few extra seconds getting it right. We students should be concerned with our environment. Our teachers should be recycling and they should be reminding us to recycle. Our custodians should be recycling too. Grownups should be setting good examples for us, and we should be doing our part to help the planet.

What Happened???

“We can’t buy tickets to the dance at the door?” “When was the tryout?” “I didn’t know there was an SO trip.”

Of course not. Who listens to announcements? The only time of the day when we can all get up-to-date news, and we’re playing around and making so much noise we miss the information people are trying to get to us. Some of our teachers are no help, allowing us to make so much noise we miss the news of the day.

Everyone--students and teachers alike--should make sure we can all hear the announcements.

Vocational Voice

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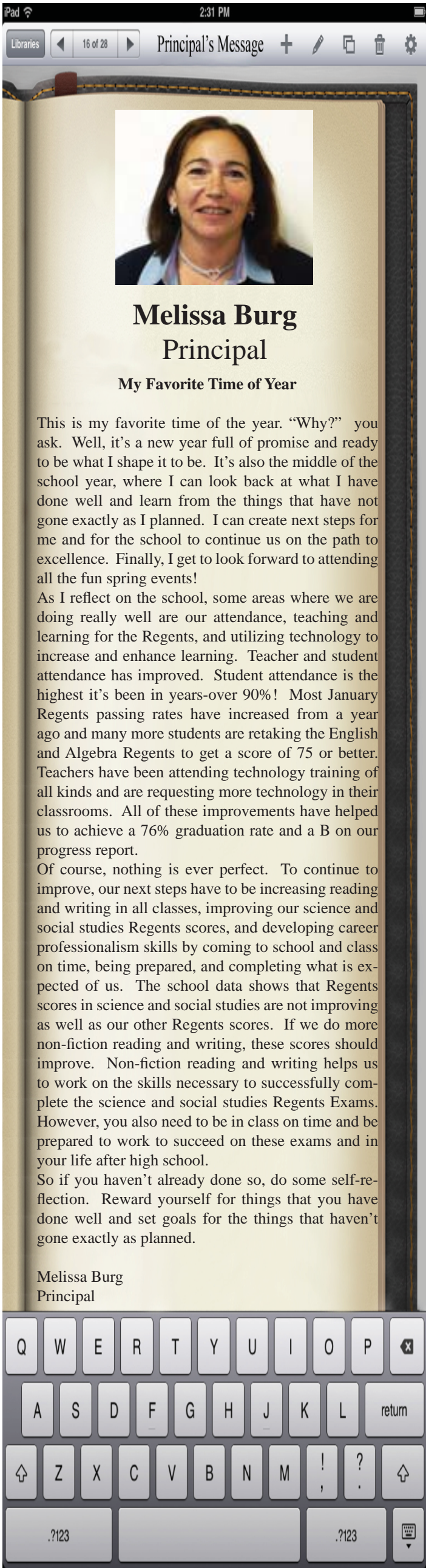
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“Good enough”
is the enemy of “it
can be better.”



Our Readers *Speak Out*

The fall edition of the *Vocational Voice* elicited 143 letters from students throughout the school. We have endeavored to include comments from each letter we received, and in the writer's own words. No anonymous letters were included, and a few others were so sloppily written that there was no way to decipher the writer's name.

The articles that received the most feedback were "Do Not Pass Go: The Next Late Policy," by Yaw Teh, "How Should Disruptive Students be Handled," by Fitore Morina, and "RIP Steffi," by Chorten Dolma.

"I think the new late policy helps the students to not disrupt the class when the class already started," wrote **Liyi Su**. **Mitzi Castillo** believes "it's a good practice for students, so they can be responsible," however,

We have endeavored to include comments from each letter we received, and in the writer's own words.

"sometimes it's not the students' fault, but the transportation." **Estelle Adams** agreed, writing that the policy is "good training for college." **Erick Loja** voiced his dissent for the new policy. "The principle should not have done this. We can be late but make up for loss time," he wrote. **Catherine Mosquea** agreed. "I find this policy pointless because sometimes you could be like 2 or 3 minutes late they automatically lock you out and send you to the auditorium." [Note: the policy only affects students who are at least 15 minutes late.] The new late policy "hinders people from getting good attendance," writes **Tyler Lewis**. He continued, "knowing that I have to stay in the auditorium would make me come to school later because we sit in that room and do nothing, it's like a party."

Writing in response to the article "How Should Disruptive Students be Handled," by Fitore Morina, **Wendy Pavon** wrote that she thinks "students disrupt the class just to get attention." Wendy suggested a solution. "A way to stop the disruption to classes is to do what the teachers say. There should be a group discussing why you are being disruptive." **Jhonatan Guaman** had another suggestion on how disruptive

students should be handled. "We should talk to them. We can ask them 'what's going on in your mind?'" he wrote. Jhonathan added that parents "should show them [the students] the difference between good and bad behavior. Parents should ask the student about their day in school and encourage them to do their homework." **Jesse Castro** and **Andrea Carpio** agreed. **Kateryne Rodriguez** added that "parents should take away their cellphone from the disruptive kid." Jun Li and Kelvin Chabla agreed with the idea of parents punishing their children for bad behavior. **Dean Dedios** and **Andres Inga** wrote that they agreed with the procedures Mr. Rodriguez described for disciplining disruptive students. **Samuel Sosa** agrees with the school's zero tolerance policy for disruptive students. **Alan Morales** suggested, however, that students should only be sent to the dean after three incidents and warnings of bad behavior. **Maria Katehis** thought that the students should only be given two chances. **Christopher Fnu** also suggested that if teachers "make the lessons funner and give less work," students would behave better. Jasmin Mrkulic suggested that "Administrators can look through classes more often to see what is happening in the class." **Hamail Arshad**, **Anderson Calderon**, **Krystian Aleksiejuk**, **Tiffany Crespo**, and **Jared Martinez** all agreed with solutions suggested in Fitore's article.

We received numerous emotional responses to Chorten Dolma's article "RIP Steffi." **Paola Alzate** wrote "this article is very touching. They show respect to her saying she was a great girl." **Jessika Guerrero** wrote that "the article shows us a great example of how someone did so much for a school." **Nicole Alvarez**, **Bryan Restrepo**, **Crystal Scottborgh**, **Luz Nunez**, **Edith Mesa**, **Maria Perez**, and **Nicholas Rodriguez** all wrote, complimenting Steffi Garcia and/or the article about her.

Emma Mejia responded to the article "Showing 'Character' for a Week," by Evelin Ramirez. "I enjoy spirit week," she wrote "it's fun and shows who has school spirit."

In response to the article "Dressing Inappropriately or is the School OD'ing," by Daniela Vidal, **Melisaaguay** wrote that "both girl's and boys need to learn how to dress correctly."

Alexis Navarrete wrote that he doesn't like students "sagging" their pants. **Daisy Maldonado** wrote that the article "was well written, and... I liked the fact that she [Daniela] mentioned the opinions of the students, but also of the Deans." But **Rohany Tejada** wrote that she finds it ridiculous when she sees "people get stopped when they aren't showing anything." **Benji Mateo** wrote teachers "should mind there business and let the kids where there clothes the way they want..."

In response to Muhammad Allie's article "The Off and On Again Regents Exams," **Lexi Ambrus** wrote "I thought it was very informative and to the point. Many students probably had no idea this was going on. I liked that you included information that can help us prepare for the regents." **Raymond Gomes** added that "It's really good to hear that January Regents Week has not been cancelled... it's good to know that educational opportunities are not being neglected."

"I like 'The Engrade Revolution' by Daniel Corona," wrote **Jenny Moscoso**. "The article is well written it grabs all aspects it needs to a student prespective & different teacher." **Miguel Anzures**, **Diego Palacios**, and **Mokit Uddin** agreed.

Mohsin Khan wrote in response to the article "Wrestling Team: Another Year, Another Division," by Diony Perez. Mohsin thinks "that the wrestling team is the best team they had in whole school year." He added, "I would love to be in the wrestling team but I am so devoted to basketball that I can't change sports just like that."

"I enjoy spirit week... it's fun and shows who has school spirit."

Gabriel Ramirez and **Gina Marin** enjoyed Sanjeev Thapa's article "Why Freshmen Applied," by Sanjeev Thapa.

In his letter, Gabriel also suggested "that there should be a cartoon just like they do in other newspapers," **Shawon Das** and **Nick Nieto** agreed.

Joselyne Aucapina, **Karen**

Carrasco, **Melissa Iturralde**, and **Tiffany Sandoval** all enjoyed the embarrassing moments article of the newspaper.

Karen added that "I think that knowing about upcoming event is interesting and important."

Kasandra Cartagena, **Onyx Hernandez**, and **Tania Jerez** appreciated that the paper included perspectives from freshmen students. **Samuel Feliciano**, **Vita Giuffrida**, **James Halloran**, **Julie Permalan**, and **Yunior Reyes** suggested, however, that more coverage of the freshmen should be included.

Juliana Arango thinks that the newspaper "should have interviews on graduates who have had a successful career in their major. Maybe word would spread out and more people would be encouraged to excel in either cosmetology, C-Tech, plumbing, electrical engineering, etc."

In response to the article "What You Need to know about Graduating from Queens Voc," by Nohely Vazquez, **Andy Collado** wrote that the article "was very insightful. I didn't know about the requirements for graduation, until now. The facts were very well written... [and] went in depth, about all the credits for every major subject."

Chelsea Velasco thanked Sylvester Nimako for his article "Earning Credits Online," writing "It is good to know if I am missing credits I can earn some back."

Responding to the article "College Application Process: A Primer for Seniors," by Brenda Jerez **Ibtihaj Farooq** wrote that the article was "very helpful since I am a junior and I need to prepare for college. Now I know what to do to get into my dream college." **Natasha Isaacs** wrote that she finds the links to test preparation given in "Websites of Interest," by Sanjeev Thapa, "very helpful... thank you for putting these links in the paper."

Albert Victor Ferrari wrote in response to Muneeza Ahmed's article "Exploring Exploratory," that he thinks "it is important to highlight the different majors and trades offered for incoming freshman. I would like to see in the next issue in depth profile of upperclassmen at their respective trades."

We had several responses regarding SLC news. **Natalie**

Guanga "really enjoyed" Juan Alzate's article "School of Skilled Building Trades." "I got some valuable information regarding internships," she wrote. **Jathzia Farro** wrote in response to the page News From Your SLCs that "it was interesting to see an upcoming change in studies for my SLC from English to Global." **Sandra Campis** thinks there should be more "stories on shops what going on and what are the students doing on there shop classes."

Victoria Noel liked Biaani Garcia's article "Rise and Shine: Morning Cosmo Clinic." "By reading this article I've realized how my senior year cosmo class, is going to be like. I think what Ms. Quartuccio and Mrs. Gonzales have come up with was a great idea." She added "having cosmo in the morning motivates, cosmo students to actually come to school on time."

Kenneth Jimenez wrote in response to the article "Teaching Teachers to Teach,"

"Students participating in the newspaper used great vocabulary and wrote about interesting topics."

by Lisbeth Marmolejos, that he thinks focus should be given to "current teachers first, we have teachers who are smart but they have trouble expressing themselves in a teaching matter."

Jasmine Torres enjoyed the entire newspaper. She wrote, "that students participating in the newspaper used great vocabulary and wrote about the interesting topics." Jasmine also enjoyed the sports section, and wrote that "it's nice to read about what other students have to say."

Jose Ramirez didn't like the word selection in Abdoulaye Diallo's "Word Soup" and thought the puzzle was boring. He advised Abdoulaye to include longer words that he enjoys, e.g., "Mac Miller, Jordan, Nike, snapback, swag, North face, some teacher name, handball." **Kenneth Avila** liked the "Word Soup" and "Word Scramble" that were included in the newspaper.

In response to the article "Hispanic Heritage: Embracing and Celebrating Diversity," by Ashley Deaza, **Denisse Carbo** wrote, "I was part of the organization. This year festival was so much better." **Breanna**

Losak and **Ashley Arango** liked the article also.

Daniel Henao wrote that the article “Baseball Starts Early to Set Fresh Tone, was written really well.” He added that “the article also shown how the team has been contributing to the environment.” **Erik Castro** agreed with Daniel. Both students are on the varsity baseball team, the subject of the article.

Jose Recinos wrote that he thought the “Soccer Team: Division Champs Again,” by Alexis Crespin, was interesting and that he thought that the school “always has a good soccer team no matter what.”

Andrew Medina wrote in response to the article “Scaffolding Still Stands,” by Yanil Ortiz, that he’s planning to join the handball team and doesn’t like the fact the scaffolding is close to the handball courts and gets in the way when students play. “Now the handball team has to suffer and go somewhere else because of it,” he wrote. **Richard Vega** wrote that he thinks “the scaffolding has been up for way to long and that something should be done about this problem.”

Michelle Orozco responded to the article “Have done your 60?” by Runqing Fang. Michelle wrote that she “did not know that we [students] were required take a 60-hour internship.” She added that the article is helpful “because some students aren’t very familiar with the 60-hour internship. This can help a student get

“the scaffolding has been up for way too long and that something should be done about this problem.”

prepared for their internship.”

Enxhi Bega wrote in response to the article “V.E. Prepares Students for the Business World,” that he is “in the VE program.” He wrote that the article “did a great job at explaining what we actually do.”

Catherine Ortiz wrote that she liked how descriptive Philip Borisuck Jr.’s article, “New iMacs Transform Graphic Arts & Web Design,” was.

Timothy Kest wrote in response to Tina Pahlad’s article “Ms. Burg Appointed Principal,” that the article makes him “feel good about the principle we have,” and that “the article was well written.”

Jacob Sobilo wrote that although he thought the “newspaper was exquisite, there wasn’t enough talk about basketball on all of the sports.”

Jonathan Hernandez suggested that Mr. Schimenz, “print out an edition [of the newspaper] everyday or every week, it will be better so everyone who reads it will be more informed.” **Henri Vilchis** and **Lizeth Cardona** think more color should have been added to the newspaper. **Na Zheng** wrote, “some things that can be improved on is the pictures should have color and more clear. Some of the pictures are hard to see because it is not clear.”

Kathiana Jean Louis wrote that she “stayed focused on the newspaper and it’s good to know what’s going on around the school.” She added, “it [the newspaper] allows me as a ninth grader to get to know the school and how Queens Voc cares for their students.”

Seniors: Stop Grumbling and Get to the College Advisor

by Jarin Rahman

A trip to the Queens Voc college advisor, Stephanie Abrams, might mean that the visitor is a senior considering applying to college. College can be a crucial point in the life of a student, and should be thoughtfully considered and carefully applied for.

Ms. Abrams spends three days each week to assist seniors with their college applications. She also directs students into selecting colleges that best accommodate their interests and skills.

According to queensvoc.org, the school website, she is available in room 143 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7:40am until 2:50pm, except during period six. As of now, Ms. Abrams also comes on Fridays to assist the seniors of Queens Voc.

Ms. Abrams does her best to help seniors apply, and apply quickly. As long as seniors do their part and follow their suggestions, they shouldn’t take too long to complete their applications and send them out.

Some students argue that Ms. Abrams isn’t around enough to guide them through the complicated college process. Betzabeth Astudillo, a senior majoring in cosmetology, said, “When I need her, she isn’t there, and when I need her some more, she’s busy helping the long line of students in her office. I don’t know when to speak to her about issues concerning my application.” Betzabeth, along with many other students, feel similarly about the scarcity of time Ms. Abrams has to help. But Miranda Rivera disagrees. “I think that students don’t want

to use their own time to meet with her to talk about college, and insist on waiting for her to come to them,” she said, a senior majoring in business.

Ms. Abrams visits all senior English classes, shop classes, and is now here three days a week to give attention to every single graduate. “Students can also come during their lunch periods and talk to me,” Ms. Abrams said.

Seniors have no excuse to not to meet with her, unless they are waiting on her to come to them. She even does that, by visiting all senior English classes.

Meeting with Ms. Abrams gives students a better chance of getting into the college of their choice. One mistake with an application can cause a student to be denied admission to a college.

Ms. Abrams gives students plenty of time to meet with her to fill out their applications, but some students don’t take the initiative to meet with her.

There is such a thing as waiting or scheduling an appointment, but it seems as though students are blinded to these options. Many seniors decide to see her at the same time, during their lunch period, a time when it is obvious lines will be long.

“The college process seems overwhelming in the beginning of senior year, but step by step, if they need to come back to me and bring what I ask, their overwhelming feeling will cease, and they can enjoy the rest of their year,” said Ms. Abrams.

It isn’t that the college advisor does not have enough time for us, it’s that many of the seniors don’t take advantage of the time they have.

Long Line for Private Time



Just a sampling of the vandalism in the bathrooms.

by Chorten Dolma

The student bathrooms on the second, third, and fourth floors have been closed to students for over five years.

When students have to use the bathroom, they have to go to the first floor, where there is only one bathroom available for girls and one available for boys.

Two bathrooms for more than a thousand students causes many problems.

It is time to provide students with more than two bathrooms.

There are four toilets in the girls’ bathroom. In the boys’ bathroom, there are only two toilets. As a result, there is a line waiting inside for the use of toilet. Even though students aren’t supposed to go to the bathroom between classes, some students do, creating longer lines. Why walk up

from the first floor to the fourth, just to have to go back down to use the bathrooms after getting a pass?

So, what exactly happened that caused this closure of bathrooms? According to Mr. Alikakos, students were vandalizing the bathrooms to an extent that the school administration decided to let the students use only the first floor bathrooms, closing the rest. However, Mr. Alikakos said, during the summer, the principal and custodians meet in the school to discuss the building conditions. They can also decide if they want to reopen the bathrooms, based on safety and health issues for students. This means that it is possible for the bathrooms to be reopened.

Let’s show them that we won’t vandalize the school anymore. Let’s not break

any windows. Let’s not litter the bathrooms or put rolls of toilet paper in the toilets, or write on the bathroom doors or walls. If we use the bathrooms properly, this will show the administration that we students really want the privilege of having the bathrooms on other floors available for use. We’ll be showing them we really do care about our school.

Every action counts. Students should create a safe environment for themselves and others by respecting school property. If we do, we just might regain the privilege of using the bathrooms throughout the building.



Help name our tiger. E-mail: admin@queensvoc.org.

Electronics at Lunch? How about Some Whine?

by Jonathan Gordon

Students find a constant need to use electronic devices at lunch. School policy, however, prohibit this, and the deans often confiscate the devices on sight, even during lunch periods.

SSBT students have 4th period lunch. Gregory Rousseau, an electrical installation student, said, “I should be able to use my phone because it helps to get my mind off of things for that little amount of time that we have for lunch.” Being able to use electronics would make lunch more enjoyable because we can hardly do anything already, he said. “Lunch gets really boring and I need something to do for entertainment,” he said.

SES students, have lunch 5th period. Carola Guillen, a cosmetology student, said, “I feel that they shouldn’t take electronics away because lunch is our only free period. Electronic devices are a distraction, and keep us from paying attention in class, but what distraction are they to us at lunch? If they want to be that strict,” Carola said, “they should have metal detectors. Since we don’t, though, the deans shouldn’t go so hard about it during lunch.” Caleb Petrus, a graphic arts student, agrees. “I feel comfortable using my electronics at lunch, and everybody should. The reason they aren’t allowed is because they are disruptive, but

because there is no class, there is nothing to disrupt or anyone to distract. I don’t think they should take electronics away at lunch.”

Freshmen students in SED, have 6th period lunch. Justin Fortis said that he doesn’t think the deans should be telling us to put them away. “We don’t have anything else to do, and it’s the only period we have to use them.” Ashley Reyes, another freshman, said that it ruins her day when deans approach her about her electronics. “The deans told us at the beginning of the year that they shouldn’t be out. When they approach me, it’s just embarrassing.”

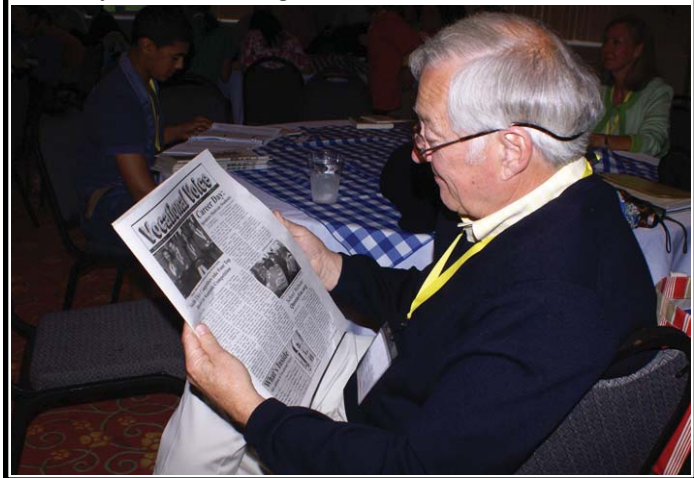
SCEET students have 7th period lunch. Christopher Gonzalez, a computer technology student, doesn’t feel comfortable using any of his electronic devices at lunch. “At any given moment a dean could walk in and take it away. I don’t think they should do that because lunch is our only free period where we can relax and not think about anything school related,” he said

Electronics should definitely be allowed at lunch. It’s our little amount of time where we can connect ourselves back to the outside world, whether it’s googling something or just sending out a simple text message.

It’s a little crazy when you always have to look around before taking your phone out, because a dean could be right around the corner.

Look who’s reading the *Vocational Voice*

Tom Skinner is an award-winning television and film associate professor of Radio executive producer, most and Television and executive notably of the *National Geographic* specials and *Planet Earth*. He is the recipient of Speech and Education from four national Emmy Awards, the SUNY: Fredonia; an MA two George Foster Peabody in Communications, and a Awards, and a Columbia/DuPont Ph.D. in Communications and Award; and was director of the Theatre from The University of Academy Award-winning film Michigan.



by Biaani Garcia

While some students come to Queens Voc to receive an education, others come to eat.

Students have been leaving school during their classes to get food from outside. Others stay in school but call for delivery. The problem is not so much the action they’re taking, but the fact that they haven’t been stopped. The security guards, Carola Guillen admitted, “have told us not to do it a couple times but don’t really pay mind to it.” Jenny Moscoso added, “I explain to them that I’m hungry.”

It may be that there are so many students walking in every day that authorities don’t realize when a student is walking in for a second time. Carola Guillen said, “They think we’re just coming into school so they send us to the attendance office.” Luis Pascual, one of the students who has left to get food and then returned, said, “I just walk in through the main entrance and no one stops me.”

Mr. Alikakos said that going out for lunch is wrong because we are not an open campus. Also, he said, “When students

Delivery or Pick Up?



Not all students have to eat cafeteria food.

leave, they go through the side doors and leave them open, this makes it easy for any stranger to walk in.” Changes are being made. “We are implementing a policy that students will face when they leave and come back during their classes,” Alikakos said, but did not say what the policy will be.

The staff isn’t fully responsible for this because they have a lot on their hands and students know that, so they take advantage. If authorities

were to become stricter on the case, students would rebel and find a way to continue ordering food from outside. There could be a way to order food in an organized fashion. Teachers have done this before. Perhaps once a week students can come together and order anything they want with adult supervision. It is wrong to eat food from outside because it is done the wrong way. There just needs to be respect toward the school’s authorities.

Independent Study: School Simply Satisfying State Stipulations

by Abdoulaye Diallo

In a school with constructive and thought provoking classes, the art and music independent studies are tedious. The subjects in and of themselves aren’t tedious; rather, the work assigned during the classes is uninteresting.

The students work on independent studies assignments every Tuesday during eighth period. The work for the art and music classes consists of students reading a passage pertaining to art or music, and answering a few questions. Most students finish the work in about 15 minutes and spend the rest of the period conversing with each other.

The school is required by the state of New York to provide art and music classes to the students. Yet, not much effort is given to improve the quality of work provided to the students. There are various reasons for the lack of quality work.

The assignments that are given to students are handed down year to year from one project coordinator to another. Furthermore, the coordinators

don’t actually create the assignments themselves. Thus, the students are given mundane leftover assignments from past years.

“The amount of time that’s committed for shop classes reduces the free periods available for electives, that other schools might have,” said Ms. DeCarlo, the co-coordinator for art and music independent studies. She explained that Queens Voc students have the benefit of earning career-based certifications, but the downside is the insufficient time allocated for students to pursue art, music (chorus, band, etc.) and foreign language. Still, the work could provide students with a basic understanding of the fundamentals of art and music, and their history. Ms. DeCarlo pointed out, however, that the current method “is the best way the administration found to get the students the art, music, and foreign language credits they need to graduate, according to state requirements.”

It seems that the only reason the school is bothering to

provide students with art and music independent studies is simply to conform to the state’s requirements. Although the school is a CTE school and allocates multiple periods to CTE classes, the school should provide the students with a better art, music, and foreign language curriculum. The problem seems to involve the allocation of money. “Many of the alternatives to the current situation are complex and require funding, new or more teachers, classroom space, and other resources that are not currently in the budget,” said Ms. DeCarlo.

One improvement that could be made to enhance the students’ knowledge would be a trip every two months to a music or art museum or exhibition. Art and music seminars could also be conducted in the auditorium by artists and musicians from various industries. The school strives to be among the top-tier schools in the city, improving the art and music independent studies would help it achieve this goal.

- INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER -

WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

by Priscilla Delgado

Josue Cruz

Senior - Electrical Installation



"My New Year's resolution is to do what I've always loved doing, drawing and skate boarding."

Guicela Modesto

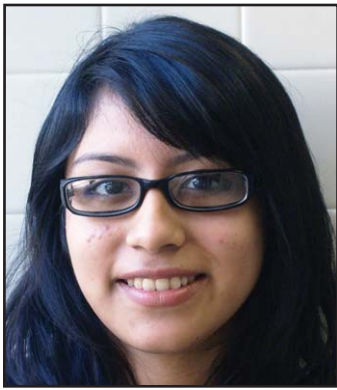
Junior - Plumbing



"My New Year's resolution is to bring my grades up and make the Honor Roll."

Natalie Guanga

Junior - Electrical Installation



"My New Year's resolution is to make sure I rank number one in the junior class."

Merry Shil

Freshman - Exploratory



"My New Year's resolution is to get an average over 85 because I want to be in the Honor Society next year."

Crystal Betances

Sophomore - Business



"My New Year's resolution is to pass my Regents and get a 90 average because I really need it to get into the Honor Society."

Arnaldo Ojeda

Sophomore
Electrical Installation



"My New Year's resolution is to get into a band because I like music."

Kent Vara

Senior - Electronics



"My New Year's resolution is to enjoy my last year with friends in Queens Voc."

Nijah Taylor

Senior - Graphic Arts



"My New Year's resolution is to graduate on time and be successful in life."

Seida Muratovic

Junior - Graphic Arts



"My New Year's resolution is to spend more time with my cousin before she gets married, and learn to not care about people's opinions."

Mauricio Rivera

Junior - Electronics



"My New Year's resolution is to get a good score on the SATs and start looking at good colleges for next year because I don't want to be stuck in a community college."

Katherin Arias

Senior - Electrical Installation



"My New Year's resolution is to get into the college I listed as my first choice."

Upasana Tyagi

Freshman - Exploratory



"My New Year's resolution is to improve my test scores in all subjects because my grades go down due to test scores."

Gabriella Martinez

Sophomore - C-Tech



"My New Year's resolution is to not annoy Mr. Yu because I purposely say his name wrong."

Mohammed S. Hossain

Freshman - C-Tech



"My New Year's resolution is to get a 95 because I want a good start for the next three years and succeed in C-Tech."

Daisy Maldonado

Junior - Electronics



"My New Year's resolution is to improve as a person because there is always room for improvement and it's a good time to start now."

Robert Francis

Freshman - Exploratory



"My New Year's resolution is to do well in school."

Erika Jara

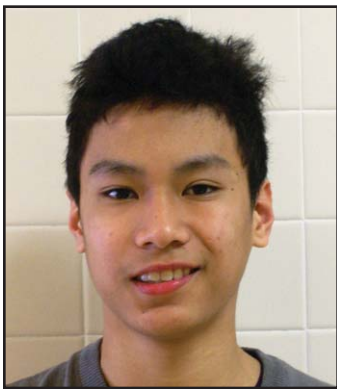
Freshman - Cosmetology



"My New Year's resolution is to get good grades and not fall into any bad habits."

Licerio Nique

Sophomore - Graphic Arts



"My New Year's resolution is to keep up the good work because it makes me feel proud of myself."



Sophomore Shop Profiles

by Nohely Vazquez

Teachers of sophomore CTE classes were asked to pick a student in the class, they believed should be acknowledged for all their hard work and dedication.

1. Why did you choose this major?
2. What do you like most about it?
3. What have you done in class that has been the most challenging?
4. Why do you think your teacher chose you?
5. Do you see yourself pursuing this in the future? Why or Why not?

Orlando Martinez - EI (Afternoon) - Mr. Bowen

1. I chose this major because I was interested in how electricity works and how to turn on different equipment.
2. Helping out students and making projects.
3. Finishing all 11 jobs.
4. Because I understand what I'm taught, I work faster and get good grades on my tests.
5. Yes, because I practice every day and learn new things.



Javier Yunga - EI (Morning) - Mr. Bowen and Mr. Maloney



1. Because both my dad and uncle work in this field.
2. Hands-on work and finishing my jobs.
3. The most challenging thing I've done is finding the total resistance of a circuit.
4. Because I do my jobs quickly, and grasp the information quicker.
5. Yes, because it's something I like doing.

Arnaldo Ojeda - EI (Morning) - Mr. Cintron

1. I like working with electricity and wires.
2. Hands-on and the activities.
3. Cable diagrams.
4. Because I do all my class-work, get good grades, and finish all my jobs on time.
5. Yes, because I enjoy working with wires.



Eileen Herrera - Electronics (Afternoon) - Mr. Raushan



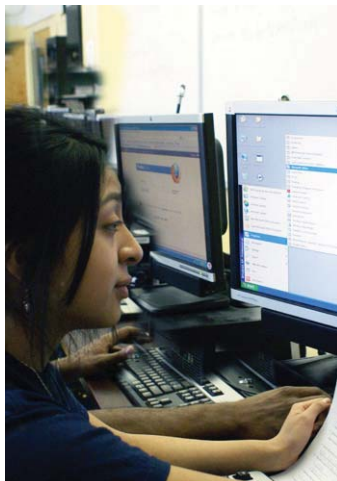
1. I have an interest in computers and technology.
2. It's a lot of hands-on, and it requires a lot of math, which I'm good at.
3. Wiring a parallel series circuit.
4. I do all my work and homework and participate in class.
5. Yes, I would like to be a system engineer which requires both computer technology and engineering.

Ahtesham Hoque - EI (Afternoon) - Mr. Cintron

1. Freshman year I took exploratory and got really into EI, I was best at it. I also really enjoy the competition.
2. When you go for a job check and it's right.
3. One challenging thing I've done so far is backfeeding.
4. I do all my work and figure out how to do my jobs faster.
5. I see myself pursuing this in the future mostly because I really enjoy it. It's fun to hook up wires and figure out how jobs are wired.



Maritza Murudumbay - Business - Mrs. Gross



1. I chose this shop because I was interested in business and I wanted to learn more about it.
2. Learning how to use the Microsoft Word program.
3. Writing my own letters.
4. I do all the work she assigns on time and put more effort into my work.
5. Yes, because my teacher helps me and I enjoy it a lot.

Gabriella Biondo - Cosmetology (Morning) - Ms. Lingstuyt



1. I chose this major because I wanted to learn more about hairstyles and hair coloring.
2. Everything, I like learning new things.
3. I find fingerwaving to be the most challenging.
4. Because I do all my work, I have my own unique way of styling and I work fast.
5. I could, maybe a part-time job but I don't want to pursue this for college.

Estefania Villegas - Graphic Arts - Ms. Ogunka



Kimberly Sanay - Plumbing - Mr. McCarthy

1. Because I like working with pipes.
2. Being able to work independently.
3. I have difficulty with the safety tests.
4. I complete more jobs than everyone else and do all my work.
5. No, I would like to do something different in college.



1. Because I was interested in computers and photoshop looked fun to do.
2. The environment, because everyone is friendly and open, and the teacher is nice.
3. Taking the Photoshop practice test. We practiced for this test for three weeks.
4. Because I work hard, get good grades, and pass all my tests.
5. No, I don't see myself pursuing this in the future because I don't want to work with computers.

The Poetry Club meets Tuesdays in room 354, from 4pm to 5pm
Refreshments will be served



Sophomore Shop Profiles

Dillon Lalchand - C-Tech (Morning) - Mr. Yu



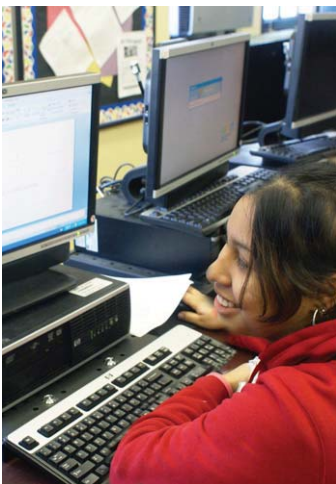
1. Because my brother used to tutor me in computer technology and I became interested in computers.
2. I like the environment, having my friends around, the teacher is friendly, and he isn't strict with rules.
3. One challenging thing I've done is making an ethernet cable.
4. Because I participate the most in class and I put effort into what I do.
5. Yes, because it's something I have skills in.

Gabriella Martinez - C-Tech (Afternoon) - Mr. Yu



1. I chose this major because I was really interested in computers and wanted to learn more about how they worked.
2. The hands-on and learning how to take a computer apart and put it back together.
3. Taking the monitor of a computer apart and putting it back together within 10 minutes.
4. Because I'm a well performed student who participates a lot.
5. Possibly, but I'm still undecided.

Lesly Vivar - Business - Ms. Mitchell



Iveth Duran - Cosmetology (Morning) - Mrs. Spallone

1. Because I like it and it's something that really interests me.
2. I like doing creative hairstyles.
3. I have difficulty doing fingerwaves.
4. I have been working really hard and try to finish everything on time.
5. I do see myself doing this in the future because I like it and really enjoy doing it.



Natasha Armas - Cosmetology (Afternoon) - Mrs. Spallone

1. Because I like working on people and I want to get my license.
2. The hands-on, I get to be creative.
3. Fingerwaving is the most difficult for me.
4. Because I always do my work, and I try hard to finish my jobs.
5. Yes, I do see myself doing this in the future because I enjoy working on people and everything related to cosmetology.



1. I chose this major because I'm interested in computers and learning more about the Microsoft Word program.
2. I like learning new things about the Microsoft Word program that I didn't know before.
3. Memorizing the format of business letters and memos.
4. Because I'm a new student and I caught up fast. I try really hard and stay focused.
5. I do see myself pursuing this as a career in the future because it's something I can use in everyday life and find a job easily.

Who Am I?

by Daniela Vidal

Teacher 1:

- Works in SES.
- Wears a huge diamond ring.
- Takes the LIRR everyday to school.
- Owned a china decorating company and a hair salon.

Teacher 2:

- Has worked for 26 years in Queens Voc.
- Loves to bake.
- Wears big earrings that suit her outfits.
- Only 11th grade teacher in that shop class.

Teacher 3:

- Does the character voices from the stories he reads out loud.
- Started riding his bike to school this year.
- Assigns essays and reader responses again and again.
- Worked as a reporter for five years at Forbes Magazine.

Teacher 4:

- Is in charge of Queens Voc's safety.

- Jokes around with students.
- Counts down in the hallway.
- Whistles in the hallway.

Teacher 5:

- Graduated from Queens Voc.
- Once worked as a cosmetologist.
- Changed SLCs this year.

Teacher 6:

- He has a son whom he calls "Booger."
- Could eat a whole bag of M&M's at once.
- Wears tan pants to school almost every day.
- Rides the LIRR everyday to school.

Teacher 7:

- Expecting a baby boy.
- Has natural red hair.
- Is involved in senior activities.
- Has a breast cancer tattoo on her wrist.

Teacher 8:

- Is very open-minded.

- Usually says "Be Nice."
- Gives his students money when they answer correctly.

Teacher 9:

- Has blonde hair.
- Shows movies that relate to Global Studies.
- Has many group activities in class.
- Wears black or brown clothing most of the time.

Teacher 10:

- Has curly hair.
- Wears suits to school almost every day.
- Is in charge of PSATs in Queens Voc.
- Reminds students of PM school.

10' Mr. Ocasio
9' Mr. Martinez
8' Mr. Harrison
7' Mr. Green
6' Mr. Niguel
5' Mr. Basilio
4' Mr. Brown
3' Mr. Zambrano
2' Mr. D. Ocasio
1' Mr. Ocasio
Teacher

Websites of Interest

compiled by Brenda Jerez

Social Networking Websites

www.facebook.com
www.twitter.com
www.tumblr.com
www.badoo.com

Online Grading Websites

www.engrade.com
www.schoolcircuit.com
www.thinkwave.com
www.gradebookwizard.com

Media Websites

www.youtube.com
www.vevo.com
www.hulu.com
www.netflix.com

Resume Builders

www.resumeimproved.com/
builder
www.resume-now.com
www.gotresumebuilder.com
www.careerkids.com/resume.
html

Online Radio Websites

www.pandora.com
www.ilike.com
www.last.fm
www.zune.com

Image Hosting Website

www.photobucket.com
www.deviantart.com
www.flickr.com
www.picasa.google.com

Online Video Game Websites

us.battle.net
(World of Warcraft)
www.runescape.com
(Runescape)
www.dcuniverseonline.com
(DC Universe Online)
www.nexon.net

Document Sharing Websites

www.scribd.com
www.docstoc.com
www.ebookee.org
www.slideshare.net

Online Manga

(Japanese Graphic Novels)
www.mangafox.com
www.mangareader.net
www.mangabit.com
www.mangastream.com

Queens Voc

www.QueensVoc.org
www.QVTigers.org
www.RoboTigers1796.com
www.VocVoice.org

Students reveal their *Embarrassing Stories*

by Tina Marie Callanan

John Gamble

Sophomore

Two years ago, when I was in the 8th grade, my mom made me get a haircut because my hair was too long and she disliked it. When I went to get my haircut they messed it up and I looked like I had an M on my head. Everyone made fun of me and said I looked like Ronald McDonald.

John Zhinin

Sophomore

In middle school, when I went to use the bathroom, I walked in and by the bathroom stall I was about to go in, I saw a cockroach. I almost stepped on it. It was disgusting and I screamed like a girl. Everyone in the bathroom laughed at me.

Andrea Sacharsky

Senior

During the summer, I was at Rockaway Beach having fun when I decided that I was going to go under a wave. When I came up I saw that my friend

had a shocked look on her face. She was pointing and yelling. At first I ignored her and thought she was talking to my other friend. Then she yelled my name and said pull up your shirt. I was so embarrassed.

Valentin Martinez

Sophomore

When I was in elementary school, I walked into the bathroom. After I had finished using the toilet and came out, there were girls standing at the sink. They stared at me and then started laughing. That is when I realized I was using the girls' room.

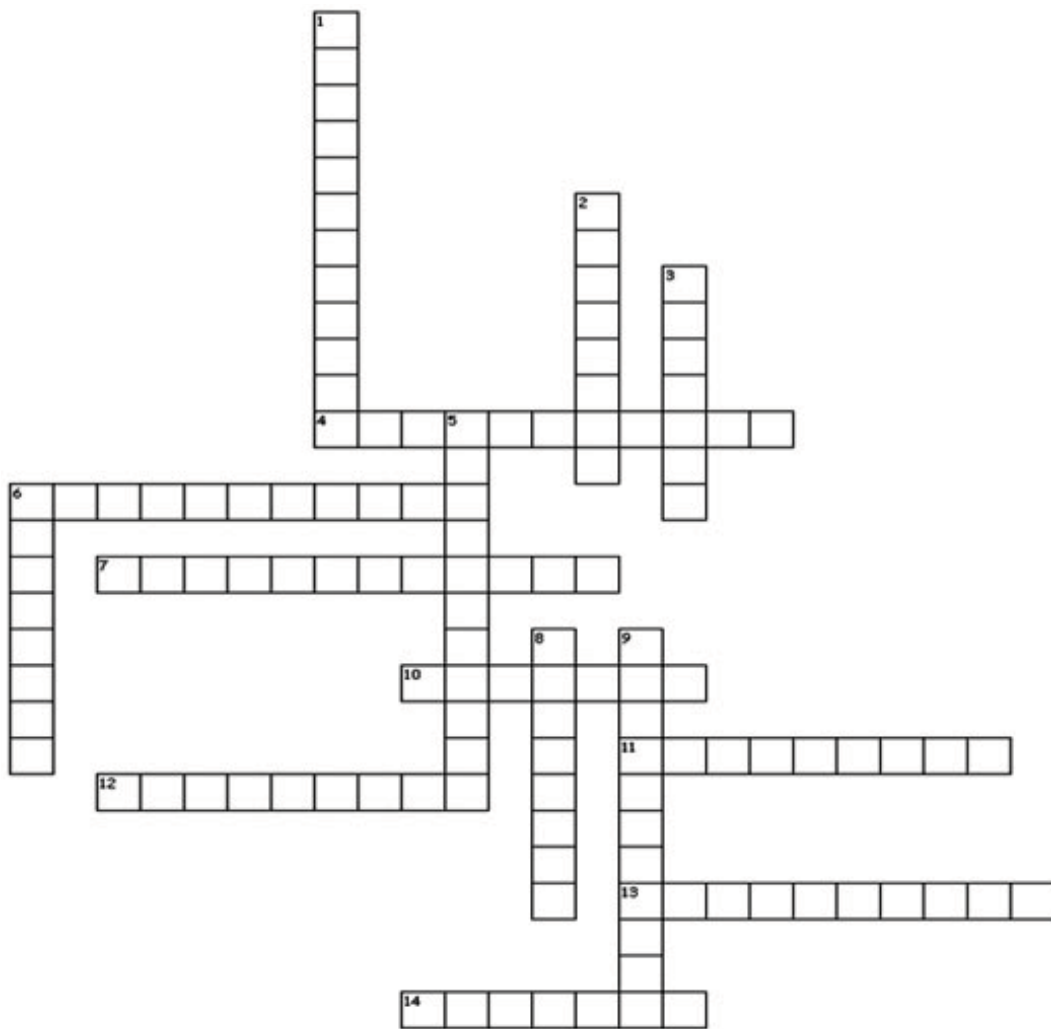
Taha Hatab

Senior

Last school year, I had to go to the auditorium because my teacher was absent. I was sitting with my friends and they were telling me to go up on stage and start dancing. I didn't want to go at first but then they started chanting my name. So I went on stage and I took off my shirt and started doing the Truffle Shuffle.

Crossword Puzzle

by Francisco Frias



Across

4. The development of electronic devices and circuits
6. The course of study leading to calculus
7. The branch of mathematics that deals with relations between sides and angles of triangles
10. The branch of mathematics that deals with letters and symbols to represent numbers.
11. The study and technology of the use of light for the transmission of information.
12. The science that deals with various forms of matter.
13. A detailed report of the financial state or transactions of a person.
14. Main language spoken in America.

Down

1. A branch of science that deals with earth, rocks, and its composition
2. A particular occupation, business, or profession
3. The science that deals with matter, energy, motion, and force.
5. The art or profession of applying cosmetics.
6. Working with water, liquid wastes, and pipes within a building.
8. The branch of mathematics that deals with the deduction of lines, angles, and figures in space.
9. The arts of drawing, painting, and printmaking.

Advice Column

by Evelin Ramirez

Problem: My friend is pregnant. She has no idea how to deal with it. She is keeping the baby because she doesn't believe in abortion. I promised her I would try my hardest to be there for her. Some advice or guidance would really help. Together we can help her.

Advice: Stay by her side no matter what because this is the time that she needs you the most. She needs to feel like she has support from her loved ones to be able to deal with this issue. As her friend, make sure she has a healthy pregnancy so she won't have any complications further on. If it's possible go with her to the doctor to make sure everything is going as it should. She needs to tell the baby's father and her parents, if she hasn't done so already, so they are aware of the situation and have a better understanding of what they should do if, God forbid, there is an emergency.

Problem: My friend is upset that there are so many fake people in this school. The people talk smack about you right in front of you, even though these are the people that are supposed to be your friends. They insult you and

this is just unfair and cruel.

Advice: If they are talking negatively about you, then they are obviously not your friends. The best thing to do is to ignore them and just walk away because they are not worthy of your time. It is better to be alone than be accompanied by people who don't value you. There will always be someone out there who will realize how valuable you are and will treat you right.



Changing the world one pair at a time

Shoe Drive
Donate used shoes
Your old shoes will be sent to people in need all over the world
Drop off your shoes
in room 143
anytime before March 2
All kinds of shoes are accepted
For more information visit
www.soles4souls.com
or see
Ms. Aiello
in room 151



Reviews



Book

by Yaw Teh

The Hunger Games

Katniss Everdeen is an average teenage girl who did her best to survive harsh conditions under a cruel government. The ruling government, called the “Capital” rules over colonies it calls “districts” requiring each district to send them resources.

The government placed troops in each of these districts to keep them in check, and anybody who dares to disobey the curfew and other rules is publicly beaten to death.

For the Capital’s own entertainment, they created a tradition called Hunger Games, which are very similar to that of a gladiator match. Every year, there is an event called The Reaping to select tributes, participants who are randomly

selected or who volunteer. The tributes are placed in an arena filled with gadgets and deadly weapons, and they then fight to the death. Districts can bypass the random selection process if someone volunteers, a rule that the Capital instituted to add to their entertainment. This rule led to “career tributes” who trained hard to become professional killers and become the winners of the event. Those who won became famous and

were showered with gifts from people in the Capital who were watching their every move from their televisions.

Katniss Everdeen’s life took a turn for the worse when her younger sister’s name was drawn at The Reaping event. To save her sister, Katniss volunteered to take her place in the Hunger Games. If Katniss survives, she will have to live with the guilt of taking the lives of 23 other teenagers. Will she

make it out of this alive? Will she remain sane? Read the book to find out!

This extremely well-written trilogy has made Suzanne Collins one of the most popular writers of all time, according to SuzanneCollinsbooks.com, *The Hunger Games* includes descriptive images, a well-developed plot, action, grief, joy, and romance. The Hunger Games is a book you don’t want to overlook.

Music

by Philip Borisuck Jr.

Sexy and I Know It by LMFAO

Stefan and Skyler Gordy, known as Redfoo and SkyBlu, make up the group LMFAO. LMFAO already had a chart topper earlier in 2011, with their song “Party Rock Anthem” from the album Sorry for Party Rocking. They have done it again, with their next hit “Sexy and I Know It.” The song climbed up the billboard charts, placing at number two. “Sexy and I Know It” has become a popular song because of its humorous music video and interesting lyrics. Expect to hear this as part of a set list at your next school dance. Listed under the genres of electric house, hip house, and techno, LMFAO has another hit.

We Found Love by Rihanna

Rihanna continues to strengthen her performing career. The latest addition to her mega career is “We Found Love,” from the album Talk a Talk. This song has been downloaded more than her other hit songs, “Umbrella” and “Love the Way You Lie.” In addition, Rihanna has become the seventh singer in the history of the billboard chart to have 11 number one singles. A popular song on the radio, “We Found Love” sends a message to its listeners that can be understood easily. Next time you are looking for music, give this song a chance, if you haven’t done so already.

Take Care by Drake

Canadian recording artist Drake is famous for his lyrics, which bring out his courageous personality, since he tries to rise above any pressure. Working hard since his career began in 2006, Drake has never stopped, and he continues to look forward. “Take Care,” which comes from his second studio album, also known as Take Care, is no exception. Featuring Rihanna, “Take Care” placed number nine on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. After listening to the song, you will know why it is a major hit. With emotional lyrics, and two of the biggest names working together, give this song a chance in your music library.

Movies

by Kelly-Ann Kato

The Woman in Black Rated: PG-13

The Woman in Black is set in Victorian England where Arthur Kipps, a lawyer, must journey to a small, remote village in order to settle the sale of an old, gloomy estate.

In almost every horror movie there is a haunted mansion with a story behind it, but the audience is not told the story until the middle of the movie, unless you’ve seen the commercials on TV. Rated PG-13, it is not considered scary for those who are fans of horror movies and may even seem boring. But if

you don’t watch horror movies often, then this movie will give you a fright.

The Woman in Black has a storyline that is easy to follow. Unlike other horror movies, a character isn’t dying every few minutes. You’ll be on the edge of your seat wondering what will happen next or if Kipps will see his fate sooner than he thinks. While some scenes were predictable, most were not.



Man on a Ledge Rated: PG-13

As the title suggests, there is a man on a ledge. Nick Cassidy, an ex-cop, is the man

on the ledge of a Manhattan hotel building. It seems as though he’s attempting suicide. Apparently, he was accused of stealing a \$40 million diamond and is on the ledge to prove his innocence. But how does standing on a ledge of a building and capturing the NYPD’s attention prove one’s innocence? Does Cassidy have something in mind?

The scenarios in Man on a Ledge are predictable and can be seen in any action thriller. If you’ve seen the trailer for this movie, you’ll pretty much know the whole story without even seeing the movie.



WORD

SCRAMBLE

by Abdoulaye Diallo

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---------------------|
| 1. | AACOIVNT | _ _ _ A _ _ O _ |
| 2. | KEEWNED | _ _ E _ _ _ _ |
| 3. | SLCSESA | _ L _ _ S _ _ |
| 4. | IIRTGWN | _ R _ _ _ N _ |
| 5. | CUNLH | _ _ N _ _ |
| 6. | MTEA | _ _ A _ |
| 7. | TPOSRS | _ _ O _ _ _ |
| 8. | SBEBLLA | _ _ S _ _ A _ _ |
| 9. | DNLLBAH | _ _ N _ _ _ L _ |
| 10. | ILAUSMRNOJ | _ _ _ R N _ _ _ _ _ |
| 11. | BRLIYAR | _ _ B R _ _ _ |
| 12. | GMRRPOA | _ _ O _ R _ _ |
| 13. | EUDSCLHE | _ _ _ E _ _ _ E |
| 14. | NORSIE | _ _ N _ _ _ |

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|-----|------------|
| 1. | 2boys | 14. | 2enior |
| 2. | 1sam | 13. | 2cpeqlie |
| 3. | 1nucp | 15. | 1rogram |
| 4. | 1wifing | 11. | 1iprally |
| 5. | 1lasses | 10. | 1ournalism |
| 6. | 1weekend | 8. | 1handball |
| 7. | 1vacation | 9. | 1baseball |

Answers

Check out the *Vocational Voice* online and in full color at VocVoice.org

If you could have a super power...

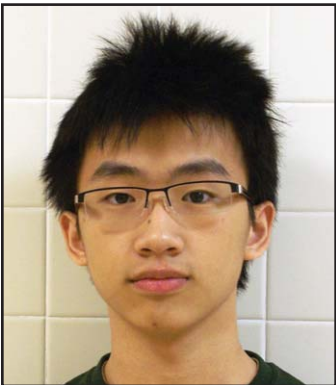
by Muhammad Allie

James Batista - Senior



"I would have mind control. I would want everything to go my way."

Htet Aung - Freshman



"I would like to have the super power to learn everything. I would like to become smarter."

Sabrina Spiecker - Junior



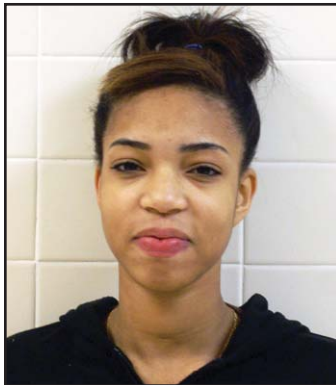
"I would like to have the power to see into the future to prevent certain events from happening."

Daniela Ortiz - Freshman



"I would like to have the power to fly, to go outer space."

Janiah Gulley - Freshman



"I would like to have the power to fly, because I would like to fly to Jamaica."

Monica Vega - Junior



"I would have powers to grant anybody's wishes. It would be nice to see everyone's wishes come true."

Harunur Roshid - Senior



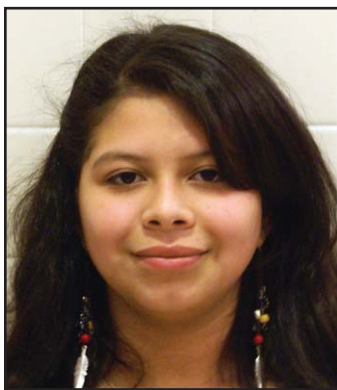
"I would have the power to go super fast. I would also do beneficial marathons for good causes."

Roger Blair - Freshman



"I would like to fly. I would like to go home fast and come to school early."

Iveth Duran - Sophomore



"I would have the power to be invisible. I would make people think that they are crazy. I would use this power to catch robbers and other criminals."

Jose Moncion - Freshman



"My favorite super power would be to let fire out of my arms. I would stop any obstacle in my way."

Word Search

by Ashley Deaza

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

Word Bank:

Attendance
Burg
CTech
Dance
Diversity
Friendship

Freshman
Graduating
Junior
Lunch
Mascot
Queens
Regents

Robotics
SAT
SCEET
Spirit
Study
Sophomore
Senior

SSBT
SES
SLC
Sports
Teachers
Tiger
Vocational

Andrew Labissiere - Senior



"I would have the power to clone myself, to be in more than one place at once to get my tasks done. I could help various people, including myself, at once."

Elixandria Brienza - Senior



"I always wanted to have telepathic powers to read everyone's mind. It would help people because you know everything that is about to happen."

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Ashley Deaza

Eliana Moronta



Age: 18
Team: Girls' Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on team: 2 years

"Eliana is an aggressive player in and out the court. She is one of the best in the team."

- Sabrina Spiecker

"She is a starter who is a good all-around player. She can play any position and she's a good defender."

- Mr. Devaux

Michelle Rojas



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Basketball
Position: Point Guard
Years on team: 2 years

"Michelle has good shots. She is always motivated to become a better basketball player and always looking for competition on the court."

- Jasmine Torres

"She is the starting point guard. She is a great shooter and she understands the game. She also has great court vision."

- Mr. Devaux

Shakirra Smith



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Basketball
Position: Shooting Guard
Years on team: 3 years

"Shakirra is an amazing basketball player and a great captain for the team. She is the glue to our puzzle pieces."

- Sabrina Spiecker

"Great all around basketball player. She is a great scorer, rebounder, and defender. One of her best attributes is her ability to anticipate plays before they happen."

- Mr. Devaux

Elixandria Brienza



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Basketball
Position: Shooting Guard
Years on team: 4 years

"She is a good teammate. Ellie is very energetic in the court. She is also dedicated to become a better basketball player and loves basketball."

- Jasmine Torres

"Ellie is a good overall athlete. She is a good shooter and has been working hard to become a better defender."

- Mr. Devaux

Marva Jones



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Basketball
Position: Center
Years on team: 4 years

"Marva is a good hardworking player. She has good ball handling and knows her way around the court."

- Jasmine Torres

"Marva is a 4-year veteran. She is a great defender and rebounder who is very athletic and quick with the ball."

- Mr. Devaux

Gurkirat Hans



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on team: 1 year

"Gurk is a good player. He has a smooth dribble and an insane jump shot. When he is on the court, all you hear is Splash!"

- Bryant Cartagena

"Gurkirat has a positive attitude; his hard work will get him more game time."

- Mr. Maloney

Andres Agudelo



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Point Guard
Years on team: 1 year

"Andres is arguably the best player on the court. He has admirable leadership skills. He understands the game and helps his teammates perform at a higher level."

- Bryant Cartagena

"Andres has the ability to control the tempo of the game. His leadership is evident."

- Mr. Maloney

Bryant Cartagena



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on team: 1 year

"He is the best defensive player on the team and is the fans favorite. Everyone on the team loves to see Bryant on the court because he gives 100% every time."

- Andres Agudelo

"Quick, Quick, Quick! He is the basketball version of Charlie Hustle."

- Mr. Maloney

Derek Atson



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Guard/Forward
Years on team: 1 year

"He is hands down the best scorer and play maker on the team, when we need a basket he makes it happen."

- Andres Agudelo

"Derek obviously has basketball skills and should be a significant player for the team."

- Mr. Maloney

Navindra Singh



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on team: 1 year

"Navindra has a good dribble and a good jump shot. His dribble itself could get him into the And1 league. His assets also include great court vision."

- Bryant Cartagena

"A first-year player, who has a good jump shot and is fundamentally sound."

- Mr. Maloney

INTERESTED IN PLAYING ON A SPRING TEAM? SEE...

Girls' Flag Football - Mr. Maloney

Co-ed Handball - Mr. Maloney

Girls' Softball - Mr. Boyle

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Ashley Deaza

Corbin Aldridge



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on team: 2 years

"He is our Big Baby Davis of the team; nobody in this division is stronger than him."

-Andres Agudelo

"Corbin was a major contributor for the team this year."

- Mr. Maloney

Kevin Salinas



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Center/Forward
Years on team: 2 years

"He is a very good defensive player."

- Navindra Singh

"Good big man, if he dedicated more time for playing basketball he could be a force."

- Mr. Maloney

Keivan Jimenez



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on team: 1 year

"Our own Kevin Garnett. He has very good basketball skills."

- Corbin Aldridge

"Every team needs a KJ. Too bad he only played 1 year for the varsity team. His skills will be missed."

- Mr. Maloney

Brendan Nichols



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Center
Years on team: 1 year

"Very talented big man that always puts in 100% in the court during a game."

- Corbin Aldridge

"Good big man skills, if focused can help the team make the playoffs."

- Mr. Maloney

Andre Castillo



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on team: 1 year

"Andre is a basketball player with motivation and determination."

- Kevin Salinas

"Andre has potential but needs to get more game experience."

- Mr. Maloney

Weight Room Repairs

by Diony Perez

"The Universal Machine is in the way and needs to be fixed or removed," said Mr. Lerro, a physical education teacher and former athletic director. The students aren't happy with the conditions in the weight room, either. "Most of the machines don't work; they need to be repaired," said freshman Jorge Ceballos.

"The weight room can use a little work, the machines that don't work should be removed expeditiously," said Jordan Balcacer, a ninth grade student. The Universal Machine has defective cables. The triceps/biceps station on the Universal is the only station out of the four that functions.

There are six bicycles in the weight room, but only two are in working order, said Mr. Devaux. The other four have

either broken brakes or pedals.

Mr. Boyle believes the weight room is an accident waiting to happen. "The cables have snapped three times since the machines were maintained. I almost lost my arm in one case," he said.

"The school hasn't paid for maintenance, and the machines have deteriorated over the years," said Mr. Lerro. The Universal Machine requires an annual maintenance, he said, but "the last time the machine had maintenance work was September 2010. The machine was partially repaired, but the school failed to pay the bill so the project was never completed." One reason for that, said Mr. Alikakos, was that proper procedures were not followed.

"The school's lack of available funds is another reason the weight room has

Christian Delgado



Age: 19
Team: Wrestling
Position:
Years on team: 3 years

"He is strong, motivated, and put 110% in his matches."

- Francisco Cornier

"He is extremely dedicated; he is a hard worker. I know I could put him in a match with kids in a higher weight class than him. He is one of the people I could trust."

- Mr. Zambrotta

America Cedamanos



Age: 17
Team: Wrestling
Position:
Years on team: 1 year

"America never gave up on working out. She didn't quit the team when almost everyone else did. She is motivated."

- Nicholas Cornier

"America was a late edition to the team, but she still puts in as much effort as she can during practice."

- Mr. Zambrotta

Michael Cintron



Age: 17
Team: Wrestling
Position:
Years on team: 4 years

"Michael Cintron is the third captain of this year's wrestling team. Michael has been on the team for a long time and has developed good skills. He was a good captain along with the other two captains."

- Monica Vega

"Michael's willingness to be a team player and his ability to sacrifice for the good of the team has taught many of his teammates the same qualities. Because of this willingness, Michael was dominant as a captain this year."

- Mr. Zambrotta



One of the many broken bicycles in the weight room.

taken so long to be repaired," said Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal for organization.

An article in the *Vocational Voice* Spring 2011 edition addressed the weight room problems and what was being done. Nothing has yet changed. The physical education teachers say they have been waiting for over a year for the administration to take action.

Mr. Alikakos said he's currently in the process of ordering new weight room equipment and that it should arrive in March.

"It's about time our weight room equipment is replaced," said Mr. Lerro.

Check Tigers team stats at
www.psal.org

Wrestling Team Pinned Down

continued from back page

that an ineligible Queens Voc student had wrestled. Rather than forfeit the individual match, the athletic director decided the team would forfeit the entire match to Cleveland because this was the second time in the season that he had discovered an ineligible wrestler participating on the team. The team was then forced to forfeit to Aviation, when Mr. Zambrotta was told he would not be allowed to coach the match against Aviation.

"It is my responsibility as AD that coaches follow rules set by the PSAL," said Mr. Maloney, who added that he believes that his decision was in the best interests of the team and the school. "My main concern was the safety of the students, and the liability of the school. I felt that we would

have had to verify each player's eligibility before we could continue," he said.

Mr. Zambrotta admitted his error and took full responsibility. "I did this purely by mistake. At no point would I willingly and knowingly send in an ineligible wrestler to win a match. We were up sixty points. There was no reason to wrestle him and jeopardize anything. Regardless, this was my mistake," said Mr. Zambrotta, who ended up withdrawing as coach.

Four days after the forfeit, on Monday, Dec. 12, Mr. Boyle was appointed coach of the wrestling team for the remainder of the season. "Even though we have a new coach, those of us who stayed are still working hard to make it to the championships," said senior Michael Cintron, a team captain, referring to the fact

that numerous players were unhappy with the new coach and quit the team. "I was disappointed that some people did not stick it out until the end, but some stuck it out and are now at city championships," said Coach Boyle.

The former coach was also disappointed. "I believe I developed a sense of community among the team. Apparently, I was wrong. The army taught me to never leave a man behind. They did and they know better," Mr. Zambrotta said. If I come back, those students [who quit the team] have a lot of explaining to do," he said.

There are 17 students who stayed on the team: Jordan Balcacer, Alexander Bedoya, America Cedamanos, Michael Cintron, Jesse Clark, Francisco Cornier, Nicholas Cornier, Emir De La Cruz, Christian Delgado, Quinten Diego, Tomas Duarte, Robert Gonzalez, Sebastian Lupercio, Gabriel Nana, Juan Prado, Jaime Quizhpi, and Monica Vega.

JV Boys Struggle to Find an Identity

by Keivan Jimenez



Boys play hard, show heart, despite their record.

The JV basketball season is underway, and the team, with a 2-9 record, is tied for last place with Newtown, with three games to go. Coach Daniel continues with the struggles from last year's season. "Last year most of my good players were not eligible because of their grades," said Coach Daniel. "This year we have the talent, but we're having trouble finding the team's identity," he said.

The boys lost their season opener to William C. Bryant 84-55. They won the second game against Aviation, 48-45. After that, they went on a 7-game losing streak, which ended when they defeated Lane Campus, 67-56. "It was a good win for the team," said Coach Daniel. "I think it's going to help my players get their confidence back and hopefully we play with that confidence for the rest of the season," he said.

Alexis Nieves, one of the rookies on the team, agrees with his coach. "I think that we haven't played to our full potential as a team and people need to step up," he said. His teammate, Onyx Hernandez, agreed. "We have talent. We just need to start playing smart," he said.

Even though the boys are struggling as a team, there are some players who are doing

well individually in their division. Adam Todorovic, the captain of the team, is in second place in scoring, with 145 points, behind Jonathan Ramos Suarez, a player from Newcomers, who has 179 points. "I think he can pass Jonathan and win the scoring title," said Coach Daniel. "The only reason Adam is not in first place is because he missed a game," the coach added. Alexis Nieves is tied in first place with his teammate Adam Todorovic in assists with 62, he is in first place in assists per game with 6.20, and he is in second place in points per game with 13.90. Phillip Gooding is in second place in rebounds with 92 and rebounds per game with 9.20.

There are currently 16 players on the team, freshmen: Onyx Hernandez, Alexis Nieves, Eddie Quiles, Yuniore Reyes, and Jacob Sobilo; and 11 sophomores: Jose Duran, Phillip Gooding, Kevin Hernandez, Harsimar Jassar, Rick Lim, Licerio Nique, Devuan Parson, Steven Polanco, Joel Salcedo, Adam Torodovic, and Grebb Ventura.

There are three games left in the season, all home games: Thursday, Feb. 16, against Flushing; Monday, Feb. 27, against Newtown; and Wednesday, Feb. 29, against Grover Cleveland.

Boys fall short of Playoffs



Varsity basketball team missed playoffs by one game.

continued from back page

by defeating American Studies (55-47) and Frank Sinatra (36-34). They then suffered a tough loss against Info Tech (51-48) and one against Newcomers (65-37). The team rebounded with wins against Wagner (56-40) and Baccalaureate School for

Global Education (72-28). The boys then suffered defeats to Queens High School Complex (64-41) and American Studies (54-34). They came back with a win against Frank Sinatra (58-55), their playoff dreams were crushed when they lost their final two games, Info Tech (52-

44) and the Newcomers loss.

The team practiced from 7am to 8am every morning before school and 3pm to 4pm after school. The team also "practiced on Saturdays and during the holiday break," said the coach.

Helping lead the team was Andres Agudelo, the captain. Coach Maloney said he chose Andres as the team captain because "he knows the game and is respected by his teammates."

The team was composed mostly of seniors: Jordy Abreu, Andres Agudelo, Corbin Aldridge, Derek Atson, Carlos Bourne, Bryant Cartagena, Andre Castillo, Rodolfo Diaz, Esteve Escorza, Gurkirat Hans, Keivan Jimenez, Dominique McClaney, Brendan Nichols, Kevin Salinas, Navindra Singh, and Preet Pal Singh. Juniors Amin Al Sayed and Ken Zou, were the only non-seniors on the team.

Congratulations to the girls' varsity basketball team on an undefeated season!



by Bryant Cartagena

With a record of 16-0, the girls in green have dominated the competition. Returning with its core players, and adding some talented rookies, the girls' basketball team won the division title for the third straight year. The girls outscored their opposition 829 points to 468 points.

The season began on Nov. 22, and by Jan. 5, the team had already clinched a playoff spot, its fourth in a row.

This year, however, the expectations were higher. "This is the best team I've coached, depth-wise," said Mr. Devaux, the team's coach. "I'm glad we won the division, now I'm looking forward to a deep playoff run," he said.

As the paper was being published, the girls were set to play Brooklyn High School for Law & Technology on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at home, in the first round of the playoffs.

Last year, led by their juniors, the girls made it to the quarter-finals but lost to Manhattan Village Academy, 48-35.

"This year the girls have matured. The girls have improved," said Coach Devaux. Although they started the sea-

Lady Tigers Go Undeclared



son with two starters ineligible, "the team was able to hold up with skilled rookies acquired through September's tryout," he said.

Despite team members' ineligibility and the need for rookies to adapt, Coach Devaux has figured out a game plan that works for the team. He uses his player's distinct styles, strengths, and weaknesses to the teams' advantage. The results are evident; the Lady Tigers have five players averaging

5.00 points per game or more, a team record.

Shakirra Smith has led the team in scoring and rebounds for the past three years. "Shakirra has improved. She is one of the top scorers and rebounders in the city," said Mr. Devaux. Shakirra averages 20.27 points per game and 16.87 rebounds per game. She also leads the team in assists with 3.47 assists per game. "She's a great player, I love being on the court with her," said Tynazia McAllister,

a freshman on the team. "We learn from her, as well as from the other veterans," she said.

"The competition has been relatively weak," said Coach Devaux. "American Studies was the toughest game we've played all season. We hung on and finished with a perfect record," he said. The girls clinched the division by beating American Studies 50-48 in the last game of the season on Thursday, Feb. 9.

This year the girls

participated in the annual B Division showcase held at HS for Construction at the end of January. They blew out Pace HS, 58-32. Two teams were invited from each borough in New York City with the exception of Staten Island; The Scholars Academy HS was the other team representing Queens.

Marva Jones and Shakirra Smith had 11 points and 21 points respectively to lead the team in scoring. "I was surprised that I was approached by colleges, though I did have a pretty good game," said Shakirra. Marva and Shakirra spoke to representatives for both the York College and Howard University girls' basketball programs. "I was nervous during the game, but keeping cool paid off when I was approached after the game," said Marva.

The team's starters are Elixandria Brienza, Marva Jones, Eliana Moronta, Michelle Rojas and Shakirra Smith. Rounding out the team are Dorothy Bailey, Melissa Carbo, Tynazia McAllister, Lucila Molina Cortes, Yadira Perez, Monica Puspasari, Sandra Riad, Sabrina Spiecker, Jasmine Torres, and Na Zheng.

Boys Fall Short of Playoffs

by Sanjeev Thapa

The boys' varsity basketball team was in contention for the playoffs until the final game of the season. But the boys faced Newcomers, which was solidly in first with a 13-0 record.



Boys huddle with coach.

Newcomers spent the season demolishing its opposition, and this final game proved to be no different, as the Tigers lost 70-46.

To make the playoffs, a team needs to finish with a .500 average.

Coach Maloney said that the team underachieved this year. "It was difficult for the team to adjust when the players failed off and regained eligibility," said Coach Maloney. "Continuity was hard to regain."

The team lost two starters who failed off the team in December because of report card grades. "Even though we lost two players, we gained two new players with eligibility" said Coach Maloney. Failing off not only affects the players, he said, it also affects their team and their teammates.

Mr. Maloney, 20-year veteran basketball coach who also coaches the handball team, is a vociferous coach who expects his players "to work hard and learn from each other and to play more organized and competitive basketball."

After suffering a tough one-point loss at the season opener against Wagner, the team won the next game they played: a 47 point win against Baccalaureate School for Global Education (64-17). Although they lost their third game by three points to Queens High School Complex, a formidable opponent in Queens B West, they rebounded with an eight point win against American Studies (55-47). In their next two games, the Tigers continued their winning streak

continued on page 23

Wrestling Team Pinned Down

by Francisco Frias

The Queens Voc wrestling team had its roughest year yet, with a 2-5 record and a mid-season coaching change.

The season began with

two wins, one against Queens High School Complex, and another one against Murry Bergtraum High School. After their third match, a loss against Forest Hills, the team began to fall apart.

On Thursday, Dec. 8, the team was to face Grover Cleveland and Aviation at home. During the Cleveland match, Mr. Maloney, the athletic director, found out

continued on page 23



The team wrestled with issues on and off the mat.