

Vocational Voice

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

Winter, 2008



New airbrush machine allows more student creativity.

Cosmo Nails it !

Clinic's new equipment improves services

by Rusel Grullon

The already successful Cosmo Clinic in room 334 is looking to improve on its services by adding two new features to their nails category, according to Mr. Grochala, the Cosmo Clinic supervisor during periods 1, 2, and 3.

One new feature is the paraffin wax treatment. The paraffin wax treatment for hands is a way to moisturize the customers' hands and to help reduce swelling in joints and soothe pain from arthritis and/or sports-related injuries. The paraffin wax treatment costs \$8 with a manicure, or \$4 alone.

The second feature is airbrush designs, made possible by a new airbrush machine. "Airbrush designs are just a fancy way of painting designs on acrylic or prosthetic nails," said Cynthia Molina of the Cosmo Clinic. First the manicurist draws a design which then becomes a stencil. Once in stencil form, it is applied to the customers' nails and colored in using the air brush machine, which uses pressurized air to spray out paint. The airbrush machine

hasn't been used on any customers because of pricing issues but, Mr. Grochala says, "we're working on it."

This service, as well as all the other services, are provided by the seniors in cosmetology as a way to complete the 1000 hours required for them to apply for a cosmetology license and to gain practical experience.

Students Show Skills USA

by Adrienne Diaz

Some students at Queens Voc are sharpening up their vocational skills in preparation for this year's Skills USA competition.

Skills USA is an international organization that allows vocational high school students to compete in their trade. Other New York City schools that participate are Fashion Industries, Automotive, and Grady high schools.

Skills USA runs a 3-day statewide competition in

Syracuse, NY. Students interested in participating in the Skills USA competition should see Mr. Cintron or visit the Skills USA website, skillsusa.org for additional information. Participating students will begin to prepare for the competition at the beginning of the spring term. The competition will begin on Wednesday, April 9 and conclude on Friday, April 11.

Students can choose what competition they are going to participate in as there are different competitions for each trade. Some of the competitions require proficiency exams. Before the trip, students have to practice their skills to improve their chances of doing well. Only one student per school can participate in a single competition. If there is more than one student in Queens Voc who wants to compete in a particular competition, Mr. Cintron will conduct a mini-competition in school.

On the first day of the trip, an introduction ceremony is held in the Syracuse arena, where the student national officers are introduced. Proficiency exams are given on the first night. On the second day, the actual competitions are held, followed by a celebratory party in the evening. On the third and last day is a closing ceremony, where the organization announces the winner of the competitions. Also, the organization introduces next year's student national officers.

Students who win the statewide competitions represent the state in the national competition. Winners of the national competition then represent the United States in the international competition.

Queens Voc students have participated in Skills USA in the past. "Skills USA gives you the opportunity to challenge yourself and lead other people in your trade," said Steve Pinell, a returning member of Skills USA. Competing in Skills USA also gives students opportunities to win scholarships and it gives large corporations the opportunity to recruit future employees based on the student's skills.



Students had a blast at the holiday bash.

Holiday Dance: Who Stole the Show?

by Ronald Carrasco

A Winter Dance was held on December 14. For the second year in a row the dance was held in the school cafeteria.

"The dance was good, DJ Ely played a variety of music that everyone enjoyed and danced to," said sophomore Ariela Rodriguez. The various types of music played at the dance included bachata, merengue, tipico, salsa, hip hop, reggae, reggaeton, and techno. Students held numerous impromptu dance battles, including a "Dutty Wine" and a "Superman" dance-off.

Upon entry to the dance, the students were given a green or red necklace that represented the holiday season. The cafeteria was decorated with red and green colors by the leadership students. Tickets had been sold in Room 143. SO members paid \$2 for a ticket. Non-SO members paid \$4 for a

ticket. The Winter Dance was planned and run by Mr. Vega and his student leadership team.

The dance began at 5pm and was scheduled to end at 9pm, but was ended about half an hour early because of an incident involving a lost wallet. DJ Ely stopped the music and School Safety Agents told the students to look for a lost wallet that had been dropped. The wallet was eventually found, but was still missing the \$300 that was allegedly in it. "It would have gone perfectly fine if that incident hadn't happened" said Ariela. Security guards and staff threatened to start searching all students for the money but with over 120 students in attendance, it would have been impossible to find the person or persons who took the money. "I was deeply disappointed. I could only wish one of the many honest and trustworthy people that were there could have picked up the wallet" said Mr. Vega.

Regents Schedule: January 2008

January 22 Tuesday	January 23 Wednesday	January 24 Thursday	January 25 Friday
9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am
RCT Writing	RCT U.S. History & Government	RCT Reading	RCT Global Studies
Regents Global History & Geography	Regents Phys. Setting/ Earth Science	RCT U.S. History & Government	Regents Living Environment
1:15 pm	1:15 pm	1:15 pm	1:15 pm
RCT Mathematics	RCT Science	Regents Mathematics A	Good Luck!
Regents Comprehensive English: Session One	Regents Comprehensive English: Session Two	Regents Phys. Setting Chemistry	

What's Inside

this edition of *Vocational Voice*

Arts Group, Mouse Sq..2	Principal's Message.....7
SO & Seniors.....3	Shop Profiles.....8
Perfect Attendance.....4	QV's Bucket List.....9
Reviews, Student Art.....5	Inq Photographer.....10
Commentaries.....6	Senior Sports Profiles.11
Tigers Sports.....12	

Creative Arts Gets Creative

by Christian Guiracocha

Looking for a great place to express yourself artistically? Join the Creative Arts Group. Started last year, the Creative Arts Group is a club for students to “come and express themselves in a creative manner,” said Ms. Radovich.

The Creative Arts Group meets on Wednesdays from 4 to 5pm, in room 325. Run by Mr. Garcia, Ms. Kurnitz, Mr. MacDonald, and Ms. Radovich, the group is open to all interested students. Students are welcome to join any time of the school year.

Students can use poetry, music, artistic designs, photography, or graphic arts to



Mr. MacDonald with Aneita. express themselves. “We’re looking for students with ideas,” said Ms. Radovich.

Recently the Creative Arts Group headed to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum to view the exhibits and learn how models are made. Mr. MacDonald led the students on the trip, which was for all

students who attend the Creative Arts Group regularly.

The Creative Arts Group doesn’t have a finite number of members. “Students come and go as they please,” said Mr. MacDonald.

Students in the Creative Arts Group joined for a variety of reasons. “I came here to show my creativeness,” said junior Nick Martinez. Freshman Aneita Torres said, “I came here because I love to draw.” Some of Aneita’s work has been published in the school newspaper. Junior Amy Zhao said that she “came for the experience. In the group I get to use my creative side and express it with art.”

“The group is a place where students create, teachers are only there for support. What we create we share with the student community,” said Ms. Radovich. The creation of Zines, self-produced publications, on the school website is an on going project. Mr. Garcia and student Nick Martinez are leading the effort. The idea of zines on the school website will allow students in the Creative Arts Group to post their poetry, drawings, and photography online for all of Queens Voc to enjoy. No specific date was given on when the Creative Arts Group will have their art up and running on school website, “We’re taking our time,” said Nick Martinez. Keep posted, go to www.queensvoc.org.



Mouse Squad laughs in the face of PC problems.

Mouse Squad Ready for Duty

by Oscar Mendez

Having problems with your computer system? Ask the MOUSE squad for help!

Mr. Cintron, a C-Tech teacher at Queens Voc, is in charge of the program. The MOUSE squad currently employs 13 Queens Voc students who major in computer technology. The students range from sophomores to seniors, but the program is open to all Queens Voc students.

“The MOUSE Squad is a tech support club where students get experience working with computers and where students get to help the school with computer problems,” said Mr. Cintron. “We go around the school repairing laptops, printers, projectors, and try to solve virus problems.”

Students hired for the MOUSE squad get paid \$7.15 an

hour for work after school. They also get 60 credit hours, which is a graduation requirement for computer technology seniors. “Members are also able to go to outside training to learn more skills in the real world,” said Mr. Cintron.

Soon, MOUSE squad will allow students and faculty members to bring in their home computers for repair. The systems will get diagnosed and the owner will get charged for the service depending on the problem.

Students or faculty members in need of computer assistance should see Mr. Cintron in room 217, the MOUSE squad office.

“Please note,” cautions Mr. Cintron, “MOUSE squad does not copy software for student or faculty use, and any replaced parts must be paid for by the owner of the system.”



Senior Projects: Why Not Earlier?

by Melanie Bencosme

Senior year sure is busy! Seniors have to keep up with their classes, take SATs and Regents exams, make sure they have enough credits to graduate, apply for colleges, and complete independent study projects.

Because Queens Voc does not have any music or foreign language classes, students must complete independent study projects to earn those credits to graduate. NY State requires every high school graduate to pass one term each of art and music, and two terms of foreign language.

Hired as Queens Voc’s art teacher in 2005, Mr. Garcia, who also teaches web design, is in charge of the art and music projects. Mr. Garcia has four hundred and seventeen students on his roster to receive

a music project; two hundred and five of whom are seniors.

“I developed both projects,” said Mr. Garcia, “and they are both aligned with the state visual arts and music benchmarks [standards], which consist of four parts: literacy, making connections, cultural resources, and career in visual arts and music.”

Part one of the art project requires that students research the life of an artist selected by Mr. Garcia, and then write about it. Part one of the music project is to research and write about lyrics to an opera chosen by Mr. Garcia. Part two of both projects is about making connections by writing a biography about the artist or a musician. Part three requires students to research a fine sculpture or a musical instrument. Part four of the projects asks the students to

research and write about careers in art or music.

This year, the entire music project was due on Monday, January 14. “Last year, I spread out the project so that the four parts were due on different dates, this year all four parts are due at once, to make it easier,” said Mr. Garcia.

Mr. Abreu considers himself “chairman” of the Spanish project. He distributed the Spanish projects on October 31. The first part was due January 4, and the second part is due June 2. Mr. Abreu has one hundred and sixty six seniors on his roster. “The project consists of basically writing essays in English. Part one gives a picture and asks the students to describe it. This project is to help students learn about Spanish speaking countries,” said Mr. Abreu. Part two of the

first term Spanish project requires students to research and write about a city in Spain. Part three requires students to research and write about any Spanish speaking country.

This year the art and music projects were also given to juniors who qualified. “There are two reasons students can take the projects in their junior year. It alleviates the course-load during senior year, allowing students to prepare for college and enjoy their senior activities. The other reason is most of the current juniors took an art class already and by completing the music project, they satisfy the NYS requirement for graduation sooner rather than later.”

Mr. Abreu agrees with Mr. Garcia. “I think it’s a smart idea to be able to do the project junior year; if I don’t chase these kids down they won’t do it.”

Yearbook: “Breaking Out”

by Dayana Jaramillo

“Breaking Out,” the theme for the 2007-2008 yearbook, “symbolizes the students breaking out and going into the real world after graduation,” said Patrick Soodeen, a member of the yearbook staff.

Not only will the seniors be breaking out, so will the yearbook. “This year I expect more creative page designs and use of captions,” Mr. Stefanidis said, “that will bring to life the spirit of Queens Voc like never before.”

The yearbook committee meets every Tuesday period 8 and after school once a week. During the meetings, the committee discusses topics such as the front cover, assigns who is in charge of getting pictures of events, and sets deadlines for each staff member’s assigned pages.

The front cover was due by November 7.

By each deadline, 32 pages of the yearbook should be completed. There are 3 deadlines. The final deadline is March 24, when all 88 pages of the yearbook will be submitted to the yearbook company. “If everything runs smoothly,” said Mr. Stefanidis, “the yearbook should be printed by May 17.”

Students will receive yearbooks during the last week in May or the first week in June, he said.

The yearbook committee is using the same programs that were used last year, but new features have been added. With the new features, the yearbook staff will be able to use more graphics, more intense colors, and more captions. Students from school will also be able to submit their own pictures using these programs. “With the use of the new programs,” Mr. Stefanidis said, “students will be able to develop more creative pages and I’m sure they will take advantage of it.”

Because of the new features added, students are now able to upload their pictures on to the yearbook website.

- Log on to: images.jostens.com
- Enter login ID: 1138856
- Enter Password: QVT2008

Any student can upload pictures onto the website. It is up to Mr. Stefanidis whether to run the pictures or not.

The students who comprise the yearbook staff are: Wade Cameron, Robin Cunjie, Maria Gallardo, Stephanie Gonzalez, Dharia Khan, and Patrick Soodeen.



Hardwork pays off for Queens Voc students.

Honors on Ice

by Daisy Vivar

Students who achieved an average of 85 or higher on their final report cards in June were rewarded with a trip to the Wollman Ice-Skating Rink in Central Park, and lunch at Charlie O's, located on 49th Street and 7th Avenue in Manhattan.

One hundred and three students achieved Honor Roll, but only 44 chose to attend the trip. The students were accompanied by Ms. Gonzalo, Mr. Vega, and Ms. White.

The students skated for about an hour and a half and then took the train to Charlie O's for lunch. They had the choice of a cheese burger platter, chicken fingers, chicken parmigiana with spaghetti, or a chicken caesar salad.

Overall, Mr. Vega said, everyone had a good time on the trip. "I had fun, I always have fun on the trip," Mr. Vega said, explaining that watching

students enjoy their time out of school and learning to skate was enjoyable. "It's also nice to be with students who have worked hard and have behaved well in school," he said.

Joel Pena, a business student, saw when Mr. Vega fell while ice-skating. "Mr. Vega got a taste of the ice," Joel said. But Mr. Vega wasn't the only one to take a spill on the ice. "My favorite part was that since girls were always falling, they kept holding my hand," Joel added.

For some students, such as Jinet Collado, this was their first time attending the trip. "It wasn't what I expected; it was fun because it was my first time going," she said.

Business student Jeslenny Grullon, also attended the trip for the first time. "My favorite part was eating at Charlie O's," she said, "I hope I'm on the Honor Roll next year so that I can go on the trip again."

SO Membership

by Yinaury Sanchez

There are so many benefits to being a member of the Student Organization. SO members, for example, pay less for tickets to school dances and other events. On Friday, December 14, a holiday dance was held in the student cafeteria. The dance began at 5pm. Tickets cost \$4,



Mr. Vega, patriarch of SO

but SO members were able to buy them for just \$2.

SO members and other students who volunteered for Operation Santa answered letters that children wrote to Santa Claus. On Tuesday December 4, the volunteers went to the post office on 34 Street in Manhattan and picked up 16 letters. The students read the letters and answered them by buying gifts the children asked for and sending or delivering the gifts. Twenty-six gifts were delivered. To raise funds for gifts, leadership students went around soliciting donations from students and staff.

SO members also participated in City Harvest. From Monday, December 3, to Friday December 14, students brought in canned food to send to those in need. "The City Harvest was a success. Many students and teachers participated," said Eva Jimenez, one of Mr. Vega's

leadership students. Students collected 16 boxes containing 553 pounds of food.

On Tuesday, December 11, over 40 students who made Honor Roll in June 2007 went on the Honor Roll trip. The students went ice-skating at the Wolman Rink in Central Park, and then ate at Charley O's.

There is also a trip being planned by Mr. Vega for SO members. "Usually the trip is to a Knicks game, but I'm trying to decide on another place," Mr. Vega said.

SO membership also includes entry to the gym for home basketball games. Students who are not members cannot attend home games. "It's a privilege to watch the games," Mr. Vega said.

Senior Activities



Seniors at the breast cancer walk represent Queens Voc.

by Steve Pinell

The Senior Food Festival on Tuesday, November 20, set a positive tone for senior activities, raising a record \$1,800, according to Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities.

"The Senior Food Festival was a great success," said Senior Class Secretary Adrienne Diaz. "We did better than last year and it was a great turnout by the seniors." The money raised at the food festival will be used toward reducing the cost of prom tickets.

"The food was great and the price was reasonable for the amount of food," said Ashley Frazer, a senior. "It felt like I was at a restaurant with the wide variety of foods."

Seniors brought home-cooked dishes to school where they sold for \$4. Drinks cost \$1. Many students and staff members went to the auditorium lobby during their lunch periods to purchase their meals. They could choose from a wide variety of Hispanic, West Indian, Italian, and American dishes.

Some seniors have also been selling candy to help pay their senior dues and to help fund the expenses for the senior trip.

The senior trip will take place Saturday, January 26, through Monday, January 28,

QV Opens its Doors to New Teachers

by Shamel Lobban

Queens Voc had a huge influx of new teachers this year, and the appointment of others who were here last year filling in. Those teachers are: Mr. M. Ali, Mr. Borenstein, Ms. Demetrius, Ms. DeCarlo, Ms. Green, Ms. Mendez-Guzman, Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Ramdeo, Mr. Raynor, Ms. Wilson, and Mr. Zambrotta.

Ms. Demetrius, Ms. Greene, Ms. Ramdeo, and Mr. Zambrotta came to Queens Voc last year. Ms. Demetrius was with the suspension department. Ms. Greene filled in for Mr. Cartaya,

who left during the school year. Ms. Ramdeo was in a teacher training program as an SVA. Mr. Zambrotta taught social studies but was not officially appointed.

Ms. Mendez-Guzman is in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies teaching Cosmetology to freshmen and sophomores. Ms. Mendez-Guzman also assists in a junior class. "I was nervous," she said, recalling her first day, "but after a couple days I felt comfortable. The Queens Voc staff was very welcoming to me as a new teacher." Before coming to Queens Voc, she worked in a hair salon and attended school for cosmoetology. When Ms. Mendez-Guzman realized she could take her salon skills into a school to teach, she decided to pursue it and become a teacher.

Ms. Ramdeo is in the School of Computer Electronic Engineering and Technology teaching Electronics to freshmen and sophomores. Ms. Ramdeo also assists in a senior EI class. "The staff is great. Just like there are small learning communities amongst the students, there are also small learning communities amongst the teachers," she said. Ms. Ramdeo wanted to become an engineer, but when she found out she could teach electronics to students, she knew it would be more interesting "than sitting at a desk," she said. Ms. Ramdeo taught at Transit Tech and Edison prior to Queens Voc.

Mr. Zambrotta is a newly appointed social studies teacher in the School of Skilled Building Trades. "I teach U.S. History to juniors and seniors who thought it was an optional class last year," he said. Mr. Zambrotta also teaches Government and Economics to seniors. Before he came to Queens Voc he was in the military, but because of an injury he left the military and became a teacher. "First I just wanted to earn a paycheck," Mr. Zambrotta said, "but then I discovered I liked working with high school students." He believes he has the right perspective. "Students in this building too often see history taught from a white perspective, I'm trying to move beyond racial and ethnic boundaries; although America may have been founded by white Europeans, all of us, black, brown, white, yellow, or purple are greatly impacted by the past and we must work together to change the future," he said.



Queens Voc students show spirit on single / taken day.

QV Shows Spirit

by Carlos Mason Jr.

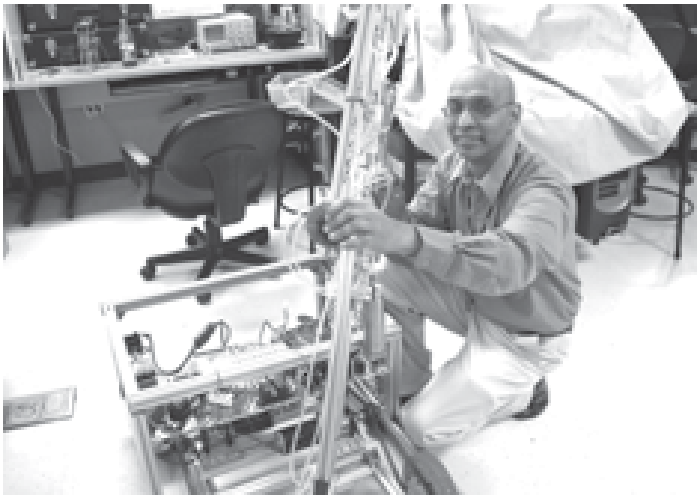
Each term, Mr. Vega and his leadership students run spirit week, “A way to get students out of the monotonous feel of school,” said Mr. Vega. Spirit week was held Monday, November 26 through Friday, November 30.

To select topics, students voted during lunch on 12 options for spirit week: twin day, swap day (students dress as teachers and vice versa), superhero day, grade day (freshmen-white, sophomores-gray, juniors-black, seniors-green), Hawaiian day, fresh prince day, swap shop day (dress up as another shop), crazy hair day, pajama day, crazy colors/throwback sneakers day, singles/taken day, sports day, hippie day (Students wear tie dye shirts), jersey day, and formal day.

November’s spirit week had fresh prince day, single/taken day, twin and triplet day, crazy colors/throwback sneakers day, and mismatch day.

Even with flyers and posters to advertise and inform students about spirit week, there were few fresh prince’s walking around Queens Voc on Monday, but on Wednesday, the hallways were filled with twins and triplets. Not all the topics were popular among the students. The lack of announcements on Monday and Tuesday couldn’t have helped.

The leadership team plans on making more suggestions that students can relate to. With better suggestions, “spirit week will become more popular, because more students will participate if they like the ideas,” said David Bermudez, a member of Mr. Vega’s leadership team.



Mr Ali all smiles as he works on his robot.

It’s Robo Time

by Yanel Leroux

The robotics club, run by Mr. Ali, was formed in Queens Voc two years ago. The club enters robotics competitions and competes against other schools. The club starts right after January 1, the same time as the “1st Robotics” competition begins.

The “1st Robotics” competition gives the club six weeks from January 1 to build a robot. The

first year the robotics club existed, they had to build a robot that could pick up balls and shoot them. The Queens Voc robotics club came in 24th out of 32. In 2007, the robot had to pick up a tire and place it on a hook. Queens Voc’s robotics club came in 34th out of 69 that year.

The robotics club also joins a competition called Vex Robotics. In this competition, the students have to build a miniature robot

that is operated by remote control. In 2006, the robot had to pick up a can and put it in a five gallon paint bucket. Queens Voc won first place for design and third place overall that year. Last year, the robot had to pick up a puck and put it in a bucket. Only Stuyvesant and Queens Voc competed in the competition, and Queens Voc won first place for programming and for performance. Luis Romero designed the robot.

According to Kearon Musumali, students must be in SCEET to join the robotics club. Sudents who are not in SCEET but are interested in the robotics club, are welcome as supporters, he said. Students from Queens Voc are welcome to join the club, but if they are not in SCEET they cannot work on the robot for the competitions. On average, six or seven students work on the robot.

Before building a robot, the team of students has to design one.

“The robotics club is a great way to express your creativity, help push your limit, and test your perseverance,” says club member Luis Romero.

According to Mr. Ali, the robotics club gets donations shipped to the school from sponsors. Con Edison, NAPA (National Automotive Parts Association), NASA (National Aeronautics Space Administration), and ENT Plastics have previously sponsored the club.

Future Entrepreneurs

by Catherine Gomez

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a nonprofit education association that prepares students for careers in business and business-related fields. “FBLA students compete against and have conferences with other schools,” said Mr. Mugan.

Students in FBLA get to learn about business from other entrepreneurs. All students are welcome to join FBLA. Neil Kamath, a sophomore in computer technology, joined FBLA, he said, because he’s interested in learning about various fields and sees FBLA as an avenue for him to explore other fields.

“I’m very happy to be given the opportunity to work with students who are interested in pursuing business careers,” said Mr. Mugan, who has been the FBLA advisor for two years. This year, Ms. Mitchell has signed on to help. “I’m also very happy to work with her, as a co-advisor,” he said.

Students enrolled in FBLA meet in room 412 every Tuesday

Perfect Attendance

by Emmanuel Portorreal

Some students have attended school everyday since the beginning of the school year. To let them know that the hard work they put in has not gone unnoticed, the *Vocational Voice* congratulates the 113 students with perfect attendance as of January 7:

Victor Abreu	401
Gabriel Acuna	222
Edwin Adames	411
Jose Alvarez	103
Melissa Alzate	202
Azan Asmat	201
Maxwell Ayisah	311
Azmain Azad	312
Joshua Bland	401
Zalmon Borukhov	101
Paul Cabral	301
Wade Cameron	361
Jonathan Carsten	421
Jason Castillo	323
Gilbert Cepeda	115
Johnny Chino	111
Jose Chiriboga	112
Shennel Cole	101
Ashley Colwell	104
Steven Crespín	311
Christopher Dasilva	112
Robert Davis	351
Jessica Delarosa	323
Floyd Desouza	102
Tanman Dey	103
Stephanie Duran	221
Valeria Enea	102
Luis Espinoza	202
Elliot Felix	114
Darlene Fernandez	221
Diana Flores	112
John Florido	312
Catherine Gomez	411
Freddy Gomez	222
Beatriz Gonon	321
James Guzman	312
Mohfuzul Haque	321
Roger Haynes	103
Elihu Hernandez	322
Jerry Hernandez	302
Juan Hernandez	212
Yaneet Hernandez	102
Edwin Herrera	103
Fahim Islam	311
Tyree Josey	411
Cody Karacsony	111
Wai Lun Lam	312
Qizhuo Li	111

during 8th period. When FBLA meets, said Neil, FBLA members “practice questions and materials that can be asked in the competitions.” In competitions, FBLA members are asked business-related questions and their answers are graded to determine who has won the competition.

Ms. Mitchell and Neil went to a conference at which FBLA members discussed this upcoming year. Ms. Mitchell said she likes that the fact that FBLA “exposes students to different aspects of

Cesar Liang	212
Kunga Likchung	211
Rahlovel Livingston	226
Alexandria Lumpkins	322
Richard Luu	212
George Manolas	312
Andrea Marca	111
Luis Martinez	115
Sergio Martinez	101
Giselle Mendoza	101
Katherine Mendoza	321
Alan Merchan	103
Ana Montesdeoca	223
Kara Ann Monzon	328
Alyssa Morales	151
Eliazar Morales	211
Brandon Navarette	112
Naveen Nicholas	312
Santiago Orellana	302
Richard Ortiz	411
Ruben Ortiz	371
Steven Pabon	202
Luis Parada	206
Samuel Paul	411
Alava Pavia	102
Jhonneiry Perez	201
Kevin Peterson	113
Jakub Piekarz	202
Elizabeth Pimentel	101
Vilma Porras	223
Wenwan Qu	113
Erik Quintuna	114
Pervej Rahman	311
Janno Ramirez	212
Jazmin Ramirez	221
Francis Reyes	202
Jessica Riera	223
David Rivera	211
Cristofer Rodriguez	111
Michael Rodriguez	211
Ricardo Rodriguez	311
Arturo Romero	201
Hugo Ronco	422
Raymond Rosa	111
Jose Rosales	112
Kevin Rosario	113
Kevin John Sasuman	113
Carla Siguenza	104
Ranjot Singh	302
Simranjeet Singh	311
Esteban Soler	104
Crisheber Soriano	221
Jasmin Sosa	222
Kevin Spikes	302
Stefan Thompson	104
Ashley Torres	222
Dopdyel Tseten	312
Trae Turner Hall	103
Mauricio Valencia	222
Meliton Vazquez	112
Natalie Vegas	101
Oscar Vilchez	411
Manuel Villegas	112
Jingjie Wu	113
Jonathan Yankovich	411

coordinating meetings and making decisions for organizations.” Two conferences are scheduled, a local conference in February, and a state-wide conference in April.

Queens Voc’s FBLA chapter has had success on a local level, winning city-wide awards, but has not won any state-wide awards. “This year we hope to change that,” said Mr. Mugan. FBLA members consist of Johana Arango, Joel Ena, Freddy Gomez, Karen Hernandez, Neil Kamath, Daniel Maysonet, Hugo Ronco, and Guadalupe Victoria.

Movie Reviews

by Joshua Bland

The Perfect Holiday (PG)

Although it’s a little out of season, *The Perfect Holiday* keeps you wrapped in the holiday cheer with an all-star-studded cast and twisted love story.

The only thing Nancy, played by Gabrielle Union, ever wanted for Christmas was a good man to come along and compliment her on her beauty, style, and grace. With a little help from Emily, her youngest of three daughters, she asks Santa Claus, played by Morris Chestnut, to send a man to make her mommy happy. Little does she know that Santa is going to be that man. This is a nice family-oriented movie. Rating 3.5 out of 5 stars

The Water Horse (PG)

The Water Horse takes place 100 years ago. It is a story about a boy named Angus Mac Marrow, played by Alex Etel, who discovered an looking object along the beach one day. Not knowing what he had

found, he quickly decided to take it home. He soon discovers that the rare object that he was keeping secret was an egg, which soon hatched into the legendary water horse. Angus named the water horse Crusoe, and the two form a bond of friendship. It’s a movie to take your younger siblings to see; it’s a lot of fun. Rating: 3 out of 5 stars

One Missed Call (PG-13)

What started as a quiet day in her backyard turned fatal for Shelley Baum, played by Megan Good, when she mysteriously drowned in her backyard pond. With the mystery still lurking, unusual phone calls start to haunt everyone in Shelley’s phone book. What is unusual about the calls is that they go straight to voicemail and the recipients hear themselves screaming without. One by one, Shelley’s friends start to die. There is an unusual twist in the story that regarding a red “candy” that ultimately gives them a lead to understand why this is happening. Rating: 2.5 out of 5 stars.

Student Artwork

by Jonathan Carsten

Art includes the creativity and expression of anyone who creates it. These Queens Voc students all expressed their imagination by producing the following artwork.



Chelsea Spitzschuh “Heritage” (Sophomore, Graphic Arts)



Miguelina Pena “Colorful” (Sophomore, Cosmetology)



Jessica Perrier “Cloud” (Junior, Graphic Arts)

by Yinaury Sanchez

Paola Hernandez - Freshman

I want to improve my softball skills for the team and train to stay in shape.

Erick Cabello - Freshman

I want to be able to get playing time in the baseball games.

Perla Solano - Freshman

I would like to visit England because I’ve been told it is an awesome place.

Jeffer Hernandez -Sophomore

My new year’s resolution is to learn how to play my favorite bachata songs on a guitar. I’ll probably take some classes or look for the notes online then try to play them.

Christian Perez - Sophomore

I’d like to do better in school and prove to my parents that I can do well.

Alex Almanzar - Junior

New Year’s Resolutions

I want to learn how to play a bass guitar. I’m going to ask a friend of mine if he would teach me then I’ll buy a bass guitar and learn. When I learn I’ll be able to play with my cousin’s band.

Stephanie Peña - Junior

My new year’s resolution is to hold back from too much partying and concentrate on school work.

Jheferson Aldaz - Junior

I want to do better in school to get better grades. I’d also like to save up money and buy a car soon.

Carlos Belliard - Junior

My new year’s resolution is to start paying attention in class and preparing for tests because I want to get my grades up and be able to get into a good college for baseball.

Eva Jimenez - Senior

My new year’s resolution is to have a lot of fun my senior year by participating in all of my senior activities.

George Guevara - Senior

My new year’s resolution is to work on my appearance and go to the gym more often.

Christi Hernandez - Senior

I want to practice and get better at playing Guitar Hero so that I can play on expert without a problem.

Shamir Moronta - Senior

I want to start showing up to school and to work on time and become more responsible.

Yomaris Concepcion - Senior

I’m trying to save up enough money and take a 4 month vacation to California with a couple of friends after graduating.

Technology Review

by Emmanuel Portorreal

General Electric G1 Digital Camera

The G1 by General Electric is a rookie to the GE camera family. It comes in two different colors, silver and black. The G1, which costs about \$137, is a good and easy to use camera that the whole family can use and doesn’t compromise quality, taking 7.0 megapixel photographs. The G1 also has a 3x optical zoom and a 2.5" LCD

screen. This camera comes with a rechargeable Li-ion battery that can be used for up to six hours before being recharged. It takes an SD / SDHC memory card. The flash modes that it has are auto, red-eye reduction, forced flash, no flash, slow synchro, red-eye reduction and slow synchro. The camera has four shooting modes: auto mode, movie mode, drive/burst mode, and playback mode.

Hewlett Packard 42” 1080 Flat Panel LCD TV

The HP 42” flat panel sells for about \$1500 and is one of the best HD televisions to come out so far. It’s a nice TV on which to watch sports games in HD. This TV can be connected with your PC and serve as a computer monitor. It has an Energy Star rating, so it saves energy. This TV makes movies and video games look good, and since the user can connect any camera to it, it makes pictures look good too. The user can buy a wall mount for \$300, and will make any room look very nice.



Franklyn Panora “Self Image” (Sophomore, Plumbing)



Edward Burke “Fashion” (Sophomore, Cosmetology)



Shanley Porras “Self Portrait” (Sophomore, Cosmetology)



Stephanie Gonzalez “Vanz On” (Senior, Business)

Sports Websites Benched

by Natalie Vargas

We have a free period and decide to go to the library, or our business class lesson ends early and the teacher gives us time to use the internet. Some students decide to see what’s new with sports. We type in www.espn.com, but it’s blocked, so is www.nfl.com. Then we realize that almost every sports-related website is blocked.

Some take it upon themselves to find proxy sites to access the sports websites. Proxy sites allow users to circumvent the blocks instituted by, for instance, the Department of Education.

Chief Information Security Officer at the NYC Department of Education, Oren Hamami, said that sports websites were found to be disruptive. He agreed, though, that these websites can also be helpful in class. The sports websites were blocked by a group of teachers,

“Sports sites shouldn’t be blocked, because sports are a vital part of life.”

administrators, and principals put together a few years ago. They analyzed which sites were disruptive or useful in class. A site falling into the disruptive category was blocked.

Sports websites were found to be disruptive, Mr. Hamami said, when they studied classes in which sports websites were unblocked.

Teachers and students agree on the issue of blocked sports websites. Aaron Lorenzana, a junior who majors in EI, said, “I’d rather be in the library checking sports than being in lunch.” Jerry Hernandez, another junior in EI, said he doesn’t eat so there’s no point in going to lunch, he’d rather be viewing sport sites. Mr. Devaux, a Phys Ed teacher, believes that “Sports sites shouldn’t be blocked, because sports are a vital part of life, but they shouldn’t be used during class time if it’s not being used for classroom activity.” Sports websites can be helpful for health classes because many contain

fitness and nutrition information. And there are clearly business aspects to sports. Further, students who want to research colleges are blocked from even looking at a college’s website about its sport teams. Who could argue that students reading in their spare time is not educational?

How could we get the sites unblocked? “Its not a hard procedure,” Mr. Hamami said, “What has to happen is that the principal of the school has to find the site relevant to school work and then submit an online request to get the site unblocked just in that school.”

Students and faculty members who believe that sports websites should be unblocked should speak with Ms. Vittor, our principal, about unblocking the sports websites that they believe should be accessible, and not just to enjoy ourselves a bit more during the little free time we have in school.

Rush Hour

by Annaldo Jimenez

Did you do it yet? What part are you up to? These are common questions asked by students at Queens Voc about the independent study projects that were distributed to juniors and seniors in October.

Senior year at Queens Voc is hectic. As seniors race against the clock studying for SATs, applying for college, and for some seniors taking Regents exams, all priorities for seniors, completing independent study projects just adds to their burden. Since Queens Voc does not offer any foreign language or music classes, an independent study project must be completed for each. This adds a lot of stress for seniors throughout the year.

Why does the school wait until senior year to distribute independent study projects? Perhaps it was based on past practice, when seniors had fewer classes. Now, though, there are extra college-level classes such as Photonics, Statistics, and Physics. Most SLCs require at least one college-level class. Students don’t want to take these extra classes because it’s harder for them to keep up, especially when we consider that we also have the

Feedback:Our Readers Respond

by Rusel Grullon

As always, the *Vocational Voice* welcomes comments from readers. Readers certainly had no problem expressing how they felt about our last edition, whether pointing out an error, sharing their views on the article’s subject, or simply praising the writer.

Many students wrote about the vandalism problem presented in “Why are so few Bathrooms Open?” by Yanel Leroux. “I think they should just open all the bathrooms and have a security guard in front of the door,” wrote Rita Rodriguez. Steve Hans agreed. “I think to protect from vandalism and graffiti, there should be a security guard at every bathroom so there won’t

independent study projects to complete. As a senior, I don’t want my grade point average to

“Why wait till senior year to distribute projects?”

drop while I am in the middle of applying for college.

If sophomores were to receive an independent study art project, and juniors were to receive an independent study music project, seniors would only have to complete one independent study project—the Spanish project.

Students are stuck with these tedious independent study projects and don’t put as much time and effort into them as they should. Spreading out the required projects over three years, senior year would be less stressful, and students in the lower grades might not get so complacent in their sophomore and junior years.

be a chance of vandalism.”

Steven D’Elena’s article “Oh the Times They Had!” about the class of 1987 reunion in Queens Voc inspired George Serna to write, “The way you mentioned ‘They partied like it was their prom all over again’ brings a smile to my face, and I believe to other readers as well

“High school is a walk in the park compared to college.”

because the strong connection that the graduates felt passed through in your article.” In reference to the same article, Wendi Fernandez wrote, “It fascinated me because I didn’t think they really do these high school reunions,” and she found “this article interesting because I would like to go to my twentieth high school reunion and see what it is like.”

Some readers were rather straight forward in sharing their opinion about the school newspaper. “It was nice to have a new interesting article in a boring newspaper,” Syeda Ali wrote in response to Angel Tejada’s “Queens Voc Different from College?” article. Jessica Delarosa responded to Angel’s article by writing, “At Queens Voc we often do get ‘babied.’ Even if we do bad they give us extra work to help us boost our grades up.” Jessica wrote that “High school is a walk in the

park compared to college.”

Jinet Collado responded to Oscar Mendez’s article, “School-wide Free Lunch Program Ends,” by writing, “I hate the fact that we had to be the ones that got stuck with paying for our school lunches. They aren’t even all that good.” Heather Dossantos made the point that “This is a free public school and lunch should be free also.”

The two articles that generated the most responses were “HW takes a Back Seat” by Shamel Lobban and “Do We have Inflated Grades?” by Natalie Vargas.

Denisse Soto wrote that the “HW takes a Back Seat” article “was able to grab my interest because I can relate to it many ways.” Denisse wrote, “Either way, I think teenagers just don’t care or they’re super lazy and try to make the homework as short as possible.” Rosa Toalongo claimed, “Many students spend double the time on the oh-so-famous MySpace, AIM, Facebook, and AOL, than doing homework.”

Joel Pena wrote “The article ‘Do We have Inflated Grades?’ opened my eyes to many questions. Are students getting good grades for nothing and if so what is the point of doing good in school?” Reynaldo Veras wrote, “I didn’t get bored with it [the article] because it was all true.” And Cynthia Veras confessed, “I’d rather go to work, come home, and be on my Sidekick, than to come from work and do homework.”

We hope to get even more responses from students and staff for this edition of *Vocational Voice*. Please be sure to sign your letter because we don’t publish anonymous entries. Letters can be placed Mr. Schimenz’s mailbox in the main office, or you can e-mail your letter to VocVoice@aol.com.

Upcoming Games

by Tashio Douglas

All upcoming home basketball games begin at 4:30. Only SO members with their IDs are allowed to attend. Girls’ home softball games are played at Bush Field #1 and boys’ home baseball games are held at Flushing Meadows Park field #10. The JV baseball schedule has not yet been posted.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| January 28 | - boys’ varsity basketball vs HS for Const. |
| | - girls’ varsity basketball vs Newcomers |
| February 4 | - boys’ varsity basketball vs American Studies |
| February 6 | - girls’ varsity basketball vs Cleveland |
| February 8 | - boys’ varsity basketball vs Pathways Prep |
| February 25 | - JV boys’ varsity basketball vs Newton |
| February 27 | - boys’ varsity basketball vs Aviation |
| March 24 | - girls’ varsity softball vs Frank Sinatra |
| March 25 | - boys’ varsity baseball vs American Studies |
| March 26 | - girls’ varsity softball vs Long Island City |

Principal's Message



**QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL
HIGH SCHOOL**
Denise Vittor, Principal

Once again the time for finals and Regents exams is upon us. Now is the time to focus on doing your best as these assessments are crucial to your success and, more importantly, your graduation. Our job is to prepare you with the curriculum and skills needed to demonstrate proficiency on these exams. Your task is to practice, study, and do your best to demonstrate all that you have learned. Many of you have asked about Regents exams, and graduation requirements. Here are a few descriptions that may help you figure out where you stand regarding Regents exams:

1. It is important that you realize these tests are the only way the state can measure and compare your progress to the standards they have set for all students.
2. Students who achieve a 65 or higher pass the Regents exams.
3. Scores of 65 on the Regents exams enable you to get a Regents diploma and enter college without taking remedial courses.
4. Students who achieve a grade between 55-64 did not pass the exam, and are not counted as passing by New York State. These students only receive credit for a local diploma, which is considered the most basic diploma.
5. All students who received a grade lower than 65 on any Regents should take it again to achieve the best score possible.
6. Your highest score counts! Take every opportunity to improve your performance; the better your scores, the more rewarding your senior year will be. You can spend your senior year in internships, advanced placement and dual credit college courses rather than night school, additional Regents prep courses, and PM school.

Sincerely,
Denise Vittor
Principal



JV Basketball Season Half-Over: They've Only Just Begun



Vocational Voice

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

Announcement Apathy

by Lia Cespedes

The Pledge of Allegiance and announcements are broadcast over the PA three times a week by Mr. Vega at 10:48am, toward the 3rd period. On Mondays and Tuesdays there are no announcements made at all.

"I teach Mondays and Tuesdays 3rd period," said Mr. Vega, who as COSA is responsible for the announcements. Mr. Mayer, assistant principal for organization, suggested they could make announcements as a "Morning radio station; have somebody monitor the students making the announcements. That would get the students more involved."

Junior Pervej Rahman said the lack of daily announcements "doesn't really bother me; I mean, most students don't even listen to the announcements." Other students said they didn't even notice announcements

were made only three times a week. Seniors, however, disagree. Many said that because there are a lot senior activities, such as the senior trip, class rings to purchase, and senior meetings to attend. They want to be involved more with the school because it's their last year here. "I try to listen to them so I what's coming up for the seniors," said Yomaris Concepcion.



Mr. Vega pledges & informs.

Time for Girls to Get in the Game

by Dayana Jaramillo

Over the past four years Queens Voc has created four new teams: three teams for boys and one team for girls.

These teams have been the boys' junior varsity baseball, boys' junior varsity basketball, boys' varsity soccer, and girls' varsity basketball.

To obtain new teams, the school has to file a request with the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL). The PSAL decides whether to fund the team or not. This year, Mr. Lerro, the athletic director, decided not to request any additional teams. Funding problems at the beginning of the year, he said, were the reason.

The school did eventually receive PSAL money to fund the existing teams.

"When we do acquire additional teams, we attempt to add girls' teams first in order to be in compliance with Title IX," Mr. Lerro said. Title IX is a federal law that requires schools to allow girls to have the same access to sports as boys have.

Queens Voc carries ten sports teams. Seven out of the ten teams are boys teams and the remaining three are girls' teams. While the school has expanded

sports opportunities for its students, Queens Voc's ratio of girls' teams to boys' teams has gotten worse in the last four years.

There seems to be interest in more girls' teams. "I would be interested in playing volleyball," said Solangie Gomez, a senior in Queens Voc, "it would be good for the school to add more girls' teams."

"Sports that I would be interested to participate in would be soccer, volleyball, and track," said junior Laura Gonzalez, "and I don't think it's fair that there are more boys' teams. We live in an equal society and we should have the same opportunity as the boys to have our own teams."

"If there were to be more teams there would be more school spirit," said sophomore Alexandra Mohamed, "I would like to participate in soccer. I think it would also be fun to have a football team for both girls and boys."

New teams being discussed for the 2008-2009 school year are: girls' soccer, girls' track, and girls' volleyball. Coaches will be selected through an interview process in accordance with the teacher union contract once the teams are established.

**Opinions? Email us
at VocVoice@aol.com**



Sophomore Shop Profiles



Weird But True

by Angel Tejada

Queens Voc students take vocational classes, which makes our school different from regular academic high schools. We asked some CTE teachers to recommend students who have shown outstanding performance in their classes.

1. Why did you choose this major?
2. Did you take it during your exploratory? If so, how is it different this year?
3. Do you think you chose the right major? Why? If not, what are you considering and why?

Darlene Fernandez Major: Business

Selected by Mr. Mugan

1. At first I was interested in Business because I like to dress up but then I picked it because it can help me with my future career in accounting.

2. Yes I did toward the end of my freshman year. This year is different than last year because I feel like I work in an office and I'm in a different environment with different surroundings.



3. Yes, I do think I made the right choice because business fits me perfectly. I couldn't picture myself in any other major. I love business.

Rodney Harris Major: Electronics

Selected by Mr. Raushan

1. Because I'm interested in electronics and computers.

2. Yes. This year is different than last year because we do a lot more things hands on that we didn't get to do last year.

3. Yes. Because ever since I was little I liked working with my hands and I like working with things that have to do with technology.



Lisbeth Collado Major: Cosmetology

Selected by Mrs. Guzman



learning new things and in this class that's all we do.

Geraldine Leibot Major: Plumbing

Selected by Mr. McCarthy

1. I chose this major because I wanted to prove that I could do a man's job mentally and physically. Also I like being



unique. I don't like being like every other girl choosing cosmetology and what's more different than a girl in Plumbing.

2. Yes, it is more different because this year we get more into the basic and fundamentals of plumbing.

3. At times when I'm feeling lazy I ask myself "why did I pick this major?" but I made the right decision and have no regrets.

Arturo Romero Major: Electrical Installation

Selected by Mr. Mendez



1. I always wanted to work as an electrician. I also wanted a major that was hands on.

2. Yes I did. Everything is different. Last year's jobs are different than this year's and we use different tools such as a staple gun instead of a screwdriver.

3. Yeah. I like the major.

Asaduz Zaman Major: Business

Selected by Ms. Mitchell

1. It was fun and I like working with people. Business deals with people.

2. Yes. This year we work with computers last year it was just talking and writing.

3. Yes. I fit in and find business easy.



Marilyn Reyes Major: Electrical Installation

Selected by Mr. Mendez

1. When I took it freshman year I really liked it and no other major interests me besides EI.



2. Yes. Last year everything was a lot simpler than this year. We used just one wire and it went all around the circuit. This year we use multiple wires which are in a cable.

3. I know I chose the right major because I perform well in this class and I enjoy working

in this class. It's also my favorite major.

Jessica Perrier Major: Graphic Communication

Selected by Mr. Garcia

1. I heard it was one of the new trades and wanted to try it out.

2. No, but I had Mr. Garcia for art as a freshman.

3. Yes. I enjoy what I do here and it makes me feel special in a way that I'm one of the first to try out a new major.



The following statements were taken from StrangeFacts.com and Thatsweird.net. *Vocational Voice* makes no claims as to their validity.

- Every day, 20 banks in the world are robbed. The average take is \$2,500.
- The most popular first name in the world is Muhammad.
- Tourists visiting Iceland should know that leaving a tip is considered an insult.
- No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.
- The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

- In New York, it is against the law for a blind person to drive an automobile.
- In Singapore, it is illegal to chew gum.
- Men are 6 times more likely to be hit by lightning than women.
- Recycling one glass jar provides enough energy to watch TV for three hours.
- In Bangladesh, kids as young as 15 can be arrested for cheating on their finals.
- There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with purple, month, and orange.
- In Arkansas, it is illegal to mispronounce "Arkansas."
- In the 1500s, most people married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still -



smelled pretty good in June. However, they were starting to smell,

so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom of carrying a bouquet of flowers when getting married.

- The fear of vegetables is called Lanchanophobia.
- Human teeth are almost as hard as rocks.
- Over 10, 000 birds die from smashing into windows every year.

Good Luck on all of your Regents!

Word Search

Shop Teachers

by Ada Perez



Grochala
Ali
Vega
Garcia
Cintron
Donofrio
Maloney
McCarthy
Persaud
Quartuccio
Rivera
Basarico
Alohan
Abreu
Mendez
Raushan
Bowen
Rodriguez
Mitchell

Websites of Interest

by Catherine Gomez

Its amazing what the internet has to offer, so much that sometimes people don't even realize the myriad of sites that exist. Almost everything can now be found, bought, or read via the internet.

Thanks to Mrs. Basirico, Mr. David, Mr. Garcia, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Schimenz, and Ms. Wasilewski for submitting their suggestions. If you have websites you think should be included, please write to us, or e-mail us at vocvoice@aol.com. We'll be sure to include your suggestions in the next edition of the *Vocational Voice*.

Website name and information	Website address
Students	
Metropolitan Museum of Art	www.metmuseum.org
Official Website for Carnegie Hall	www.carnegiehall.org
The Louvre Museum in Paris	www.louvre.fr
Computer Technology	www.computerhope.com
How Stuff Works	www.howstuffworks.com
Controversial Political Issues	www.balancedpolitics.org
Teachers	
Read-Write-Think	www.readwritethink.org
Digital History	www.digitalhistory.uh.edu
Social Studies Regents Sources	www.edusolution.com
Create assignments and grade them	www.quizlab.com
Educational Videos	www.unitedstreaming.com
John Stossel Teaching Resources	www.stosselintheclassroom.org
School Related	
Queens Voc Home Website	www.queensvoc.org
Queens Voc Tigers Baseball	www.qvtigers.org
Public Schools Athletic League	www.psal.org
Online Movies, Episodes, & Home Videos	
Watch Movies Online	www.movie6.net
Peekvid (Online Movie Player)	www.peakvid.com
Movies and TV Episodes	www.moviesister.com
You Tube	www.youtube.com
Veoh	www.veoh.com
College Information	
SAT/PSAT Registration, College info.	www.collegeboard.com
Find a career path	www.nycareerzone.org
Scholarships	www.fastweb.com
Federal Student Aid	www.fafsa.ed.gov
Technology	
Computer parts store	www.newegg.com
Photoshop Tutorials	www.devclaver.com
Maximum PC (Online PC Magazine)	www.maximumpc.com
Online collaborative encyclopedia	www.wikipedia.com



by Natalie Vargas

Sagittarius (Nov 23- Dec 21): You have an itch to travel and take your mind off a lot of your problems. Go ahead and travel whether it is far or near. Take a companion with you, maybe a family member you have been distant from; that family member might wind up a good friend.

Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 20): You have been looking for success without any work, yet you work well when given a project or a task. Concentrate on upcoming projects and don't lose focus. Success comes to those who put in effort and work.

Aquarius (Jan 21- Feb 19): Stop thinking about what could have been and think about what is. Learn to appreciate what you have and stop wishing you had done things differently. Prepare for your future that will be full of surprises.

Pisces (Feb 20- March 20): Your optimistic thinking has your head in the clouds. Stay grounded and use your creative mind to benefit yourself. Keeping your talents hidden away will get you nowhere, sharing them will earn the appreciation of many.

Horoscopes



Aries (March 21- April 20): You want to be in charge of a big project. As an Aries, you don't like having to depend on other people. Don't stay quiet about what you think should be done, you're going to start stressing out. You're a leader so take charge and you'll get a lot further faster.

Taurus (April 21- May 21): You have a strong character that'll interfere with your friendships this month. Even though it's to be hard loosen up, you should because you may lose a couple of really good friends by you just wanting to be right. Accept being wrong sometimes, it won't hurt.

Gemini (May 22- June 21): You seem to get bored quickly. Stay focused because you're going to fall behind if you keep losing focus. It'll be hard to get back on track but in the end all the work will pay off. You may encounter a couple of road bumps but, stay clear-minded and your problem solving skills will kick in.

Cancer (June 22- July 23): You're close to your family but this may cause you to not move ahead with your life. Let go a little bit and become more independent. You seem to be living more in the past; think

about the present and the future.

Leo (July 24- Aug 23): Around people, you give off the sense of security and confidence. What you don't realize is the appreciation that people have for you. Your persona is very enjoyable. Don't be so insecure. Take a risk by becoming a little bit more vulnerable, it'll make you feel more comfortable in groups and you will make new friends.

Virgo (Aug 24- Sept 23): The problems you have seem to be weighing you down. As a Virgo, it's in your nature to avoid chaos, but if you stop avoiding all your troubles they'll get to big too handle. Take a breather and clear your mind, think your problems through, and you'll feel better in the end. If you're seeking help or a person to talk to, find a Libra, their calm peaceful nature will help you out.

Libra (Sept 24- Oct 23): You need to take initiative and stop thinking what you do won't be good enough. Just complete the task at hand and see that when you work to your best, everything comes out fine. Don't be shy to ask for a helping hand because many people are willing to help.

The Bucket List

by Yanel Leroux

The Bucket List, a new movie about two guys who make a list of things they'd like to do before they die, led us to ask our teachers what they'd like to do before their time is up.

"I would like to travel the world because I have never been out of the country." -Mr. Devaux

"Dye my beard silver, because Yinaury said so." - Mr. Ryan

"I would like to make a difference because I want to be remembered in a good way." - Ms. Quartuccio

"Travel the world to see different cultures and try all the foods." - Mr. Grochala

"Visit every continent at least once because I like to travel and experience new cultures." - Ms. DeCarlo

"Walk on the wall of China before the environment destroys it." -Ms. Peteroy

"I would like to Skydive, just for the thrill of it." - Ms. Watkins

"Visit the country of my ancestors, India, because I want to find out more about my culture." - Mr. Goolsaran

"I would like to take a long vacation, go some where warm and tropical, just to get away from people asking me questions." - Mr. Ali (English teacher)

"Win the lottery, to live more comfortably." - Mr. Ali (Robotics teacher)

"Visit Italy, because it's the country of my ancestors." - Mr. Garofano

"Reach the age of 100." - Mr. Schimenz

What would you include in *your* Bucket List?

Word

rbmnlceSa

by Angel Tejada

How well do you know the names of some of the best players in the NBA, MLB, and the NFL? See how many of these names you can unscramble.

toepyn inangnm
kedre retje
xela dorigezur
yanrd somo
bbo sedansr
nalaniad mosiltnon
blaret julops
gumiel adajet
beok tyrabn
belnor semja
mercola nonthya
vetse shan
lertelr soenw
dach shonjon
yermje koshcye
asm dimanos
nirada etpsoner
ranib lerchura
tonanio iceper
nany m mazirer
depor arntizme
soje yesre
henswa anrimerm
silu otliclas
boaj linamabrche

Inquiring Photographer



by Cindy Carrasco

Where do you see yourself in the future? We asked students how they see their life after Queens Voc.

Question: How do you see your life after Queens Voc?



Kiarra Fennell
9th grade, Cosmetology

“After I leave Queens Voc I would like to make myself happy and please others around me. I want to go to college to study business.”



Kevin Mia
9th grade, Exploratory

“I want to work for a large business corporation. I also want to attend college to improve in the business area.”

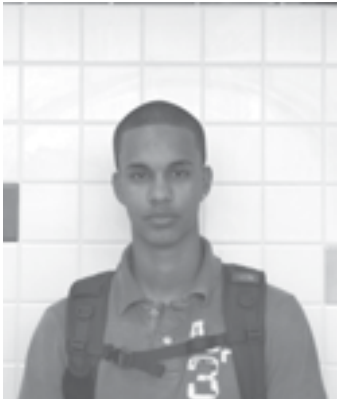


Catherine Gomez
12th grade
Computer Tech.

“Going to the college of my choice and persuing my dream job. Then I’ll be making lots of money.”



Ruthie Vegas
12th grade
Computer Tech.
“I see myself in college working with graphic design.”



Hanner Lopez
11th grade
Electrical Installation
“I see myself working for an electrical company or a union. I also want to go to college to study to become a doctor.”



John Horton
11th grade, Plumbing
“I see myself studying business in college, while working as a plumber.”



Jhefferson Aldaz
11th grade, Robotics
“I see myself attending Buffalo State and working with Electronics.”

Get in Fashion for '08

by Tashio Douglas

“In fashion” is a term that usually applies to a person who wears popular styles of clothes. Here are some suggestions for getting in fashion this winter and upcoming spring.

For women:

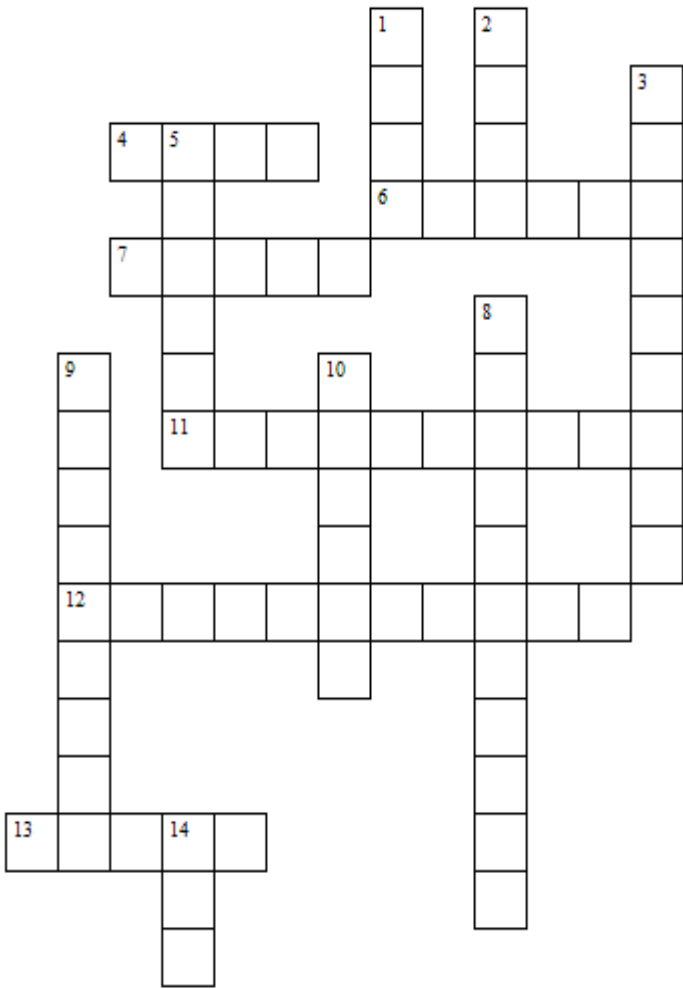
- Men wear such as (vest, shirt blouses)
- Baby dolls (sweater dresses, shirts, jackets)
- Vintage graphic tees
- Skinny jeans (denim or pastel colors)
- Wide leg jeans
- High waist pants
- Shades of Gray
- Pea coats
- Accessories (chunky necklaces, big bangles, big earrings, big rings)
- Hats (beanies, berets)
- Scarves (chunky Knits)
- Big bags
- Boots (ankle, mid length, high, Uggs)

For men:

- Vintage Graphic tees
- Skinny jeans (not too fitted denim or mellow colors)
- Cardigans
- Watches
- Hats
- Scarves
- Messenger bags
- Jordan’s, Vans, Gucci shoes

Geography Crossword Puzzle

by Josue Sanchez



ACROSS

- 4- The largest continent
- 6- The only continent without a desert
- 7- The fourth biggest size nation in the world
- 11- The only continent without reptiles or snakes
- 12- Smallest state in the US
- 13- State in the US whose name has one syllable

DOWN

- 1- The longest river in the world
- 2- Divided by 15 in 1991
- 3- The largest island
- 5- The largest desert in the world
- 8- The world’s smallest independent state
- 9- Continent and country
- 10- A true island state
- 14- The largest city in the United States

Jokes

by Annaldo Jimenez

Why did the boy throw butter out the window? Because he wanted to see a butterfly

What did the hamburger name his daughter? Patty

Why didn’t the skeleton cross the road? Because he didn’t have the guts

What do you call a fish without an eye? A Fsh

Why do golfers wear two shirts? Because they might make a hole-in-one

What is Homer Simpson’s favorite ice-cream flavor? Chocolate chip cookie-DOH!

What did one wall say to the other wall? Meet you at the corner

Why did the turkey cross the road? Because he didn’t want to be chicken

Why did the NY Giants go to the bank? To get their quarterback

Women can pick up some of these “in” items at a reasonable price in stores such as Urban Outfitters, Delias, Forever 21, H&M, Mandeess, Charlotte Russe, Strawberries, Macys’, Daffys’, Target, Claires, Afaze, Wetseals, Old Navy, and Express.

Men can also pick up these “in” styles at stores such as Urban Outfitters, H&M, Yellow Rat Bastard, Express, American Eagle, Hollister, Abercrombie, Armani Exchange, Pulse, Guess, Polo, Macys’ and Old Navy

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

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Josue Sanchez

Christopher Luna



Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on Team: 2

"Chris came back this year with improved skill and was a positive asset for the team."
- Coach Maloney

"Christopher has improved his game a lot since the beginning of the season. He's a good teammate."
- Ranjot Singh

Carlos Mason



Team: Boy's Varsity Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on Team: 3

"Carlos has the most heart of any player I have coached in many years."
- Coach Maloney

"Carlos is a great point guard and contributes a lot to the team. He is always there for the team when we need him."
- Anthony Hughes

Diana Giraldo



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Position: B Team
Years on Team: 1

"Diana was a nice surprise to the team. She picked up the game of bowling quickly."
- Coach Garofano

"Diana supported the team every time and improved a lot during the season."
- Magdaline Rodriguez

Christi Hernandez



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Position: B Team
Years on Team: 3

"Christi made a significant improvement from last year and earned a spot on the B team."
- Coach Garofano

"Christi is a very motivated player; she always kept her head up no matter what."
- Lorena Bonilla

Melinda Leon



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Position: B Team
Years on Team: 1

"Melinda ended up being a nice surprise this year. I wish I would've known about her earlier during her high school career."
- Coach Garofano

"She made everything fun, even if we were losing; she kept the team with energy."
- Ivana Nunez

So What are we Doing Now that we have a Gym?

by Steven D'Elena

New York City schools offer a wide range of fitness and health instruction during the school day, along with before- and after-school activities, to help children develop the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors that lead to lifelong physical, mental, emotional, and social wellness. These are the physical education standards according to the Department of Education. So what are the students in Queens Voc doing in their gym classes?

Two years ago the new addition opened. Equipped with a gymnasium, locker rooms and a weight room, this was a big upgrade from what Queens Voc students previously had. Three years ago, students had physical education classes in cubicles that were in the back of the "cafetorium." Those cubicles were called "gymlettes."

So now that Queens Voc students are in a gymnasium instead of a "gymlette," what are they doing everyday? "Everything is being delayed because of money problems, we are awaiting funds fund for physical education from the Department of Education," said

Mr. Lerro, a physical education teacher. Ms. Bloom, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Devaux, and Mr. Garofano who are the other phys ed teachers, are using the same or similar lessons as Mr.Lerro. All of these teachers are using the same or a similar lesson plan as Mr. Lerro.

Mr. Lerro started his classes off with conditioning and running. "I get a good workout from the exercises [running, push-ups, and sit-ups] we do in gym class and I like it because we do what needs to be done, and then we have some free time to fall out," said junior Starlin Sanchez.

The students also go into the weight room. "I let my students use the weight room three times a week," said Mr. Devaux.

So far the conditioning unit that consisted of running, stretching, and the use of the weight room is the only unit that Mr. Lerro was able

to even because the lack of funds, he said. Footballs are the main concern right now because that is the next scheduled unit." We have a shipment of footballs and basketballs on the way, which should be arriving soon," said Mr. Gorman, the AP in charge of physical education.

This shipment was made possible by tapping into the school's budget for the money to order purchase supplies. Whiffle balls and bats, volley balls, and soccer balls are also needed. The lack of equipment is a result of attrition; over the past two years the equipment has been lost or damaged. After the unit of football, European handball, volleyball, basketball, and Whiffle ball are the other units on the agenda.

New & Improved Lady Tigers

by Adrienne Diaz

The Lady Tigers softball team is getting ready this year to do better than ever. "I already see big improvement in the girls, the rust is getting out of the old girls," Coach Boyle said.

Each year, the team members attend a softball clinic at Queens College on three Saturdays in December for three hours each day. About ten girls attended the Saturday clinics. The Student Organization and the team split the cost. The girls sell chocolate to help pay for the clinic, which costs hundreds of dollars. The softball team at Queens College helps train the girls. The clinic consists of one hour of hitting, one hour of field skills, and one hour of fitness each Saturday. "The clinic helps the girls develop more skills and it teaches them new techniques," said Captain Dayana Jaramillo. The Queens Voc girls attend the clinic during the fall because

Luis Romero



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Midfield
Years on team: 2

"Luis played on his best potential when he was given the opportunity to play."
-Coach Ali

"He tries really hard and plays for his best of his abillites."
-Gregory Paul

Alex Penaloza



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Defense
Years on Team: 4

"Alex is an excellent defensive player. He has a lot of potential. During playoffs Alex was offered a scholarship to play soccer."
-Coach Ali

"One of our best defense players. Alex saved us in the majority of the games."
- Hector Roche

most schools attend during the spring, so with fewer schools there, they get more help.

The team had one highly successful bake sale and plans to have another in February to help pay for sweats, sweaters, and duffle bags.

Fifteen returning veterans should help the team with their experience. The veterans are: Ashley Addonisio, Karen Alvares, Tracy Ambrossi, Lorena Bonilla, Cindy Carrasco, Brigitte Diaz, Joana Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, Christi Hernandez, Dayana Jaramillo, Estephany Jimenez, Samantha Lupo, Shannessy Morales, Magdaline Rodriguez, and Jossie Vaca. They will be supported by

eleven rookies: Amreen Akbar, Melissa Alzate, Francesca Bernabe Duarte, Margaret Castellanos, Stephanie Gonzalez, Paola Hernandez, Victoria Lindner, Vanessa Mejia, Jamila Rodriguez, Shirley Rodriguez, and Ariel Soler.

"I expect better than last year," said Coach Boyle. "It's basically the same team, but bigger, smarter, wiser, and more experienced."

Join SO
See Mr. Vega
in Room 143

Going for a lay-up.



TIGERS

SPORTS

Boys’ Varsity Basketball: Seesaw Season in Progress

by Ada Perez

“The season has been like a roller coaster ride, at our high points we beat Wagner and Aviation, two teams that were in the playoffs last year and our low points were losing to Newcomers and HS for Construction, two teams that didn’t really perform last season, said Mr. Maloney, the coach of the boys’ varsity basketball team.



Dre shooting the “J”

Mason, and Steven Sacharsky. The juniors are Jheferson Aldaz, Skyfree Ferguson, Jerrell Hampton, Edwin Hill, Mingmar Lama, Joel Pichardo, Vinicios Santos, Amritpal Singh, and Ranjot Singh.

Eight are veterans David Bermudez, Andrew Ferguson, Skyfree Ferguson, Jerrell Hampton, Edwin Hill, Mingmar Lama, Christopher Luna, and Carlos Mason.

“The players who have been key for the team are Skyfree Ferguson 10 points per game and Andrew Ferguson 16 points per game. Defensively the team is lead by Edwin Hill (rebounds) and Jerrell Hampton (blocks),” said Mr. Maloney. Andrew Ferguson plays small forward. “The team is performing to their best ability and we’re doing a lot better this season,” Andrew said. He also believes that they’re more in sync without last year’s seniors. Andrew is hopeful he can elevate his game to the next level, college. “For this season I wish to go all the way and win the championship,” stated Vinicios Santos, junior. David Bermudez believes “the team as a whole is performing well. People are stepping up when needed and filling roles that were previously missing. I will miss the team a lot but I had four really fun years and will always look back on these years and be happy,” David said.

The boy’s varsity basketball team will be playing HS for Construction on January 28, Academy of American Studies on February 4, and Pathways College Prep on February 8.



Girls’ Basketball Feeling Confident

by Christopher Luna

“I feel good about the season so far,” said Mr. Devaux, coach of the girls’ varsity basketball team. “Last year we won 2 games all season,” said Mr. Devaux, , referring to the Lady Tigers 4-5 record so far this season.

The Lady Tigers lost their home opener against Robert F. Wagner 45-44, but the Tigers bounced back and won their next two games defeating Info Tech 36-27, and Frank Sinatra 33-28.

The Lady Tigers have 5 returning players: Melissa Alzate, Catherine Gomez,



Karolina Gorna, Quiniesha Harris, and Samantha Lupo; and 7 rookies: Chaimae Benali, Lorena Bonilla, Kunga Deki, Ana Estrada, Meghan Guzman, Vanessa Mejia, and Jamila Rodriguez.

The Lady Tigers are currently in 5th place out of 8 teams in the Queens B-2 division. The other teams in their division are: American Studies, Grover Cleveland, Frank Sinatra, Info Tech, Robert F. Wagner, HS for Construction, and Newcomers.

Mr. Devaux feels that he has a really good starting five, and several players off the bench that help out, but he also knows he has a young team that is still learning the game. “The team plays well together on defense,” Coach Devaux said,

“and we have several playmakers that we didn’t have last year. Last year we needed the whole team to score, this year we have playmakers.” Mr. Devaux’s goals for this season are to get the girls to play better as a team, playing better together



Mr. Devaux and the girls: it’s all about communication.

on the offensive end, learning the plays, communicating, and beating the press.

After losing to American Studies on December 13, the Tigers again bounced back and won against Newcomers on December 14, and HS for Construction on December 18. The Lady Tigers have 4 games left after their January 16th home game against American Studies. Mr. Devaux said he also has one non-league game set-up right now, January 12 against Baccalureate, and he is planning up two more, but with the boys’ varsity and boys’ junior varsity basketball teams also using the gym, time is not always available.

TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE