Vocational Voice

Vol. LXX No. 2 | Queens Vocational and Technical High School, Long Island City, NY 11101 | Winter, 2005

SED success leads the ways for SLCs.

Smaller Learning Communities
Working Toward a Better School

by Jessica Rios

Next school year, Queens Voc will go through a major change. It will no longer be one whole school. Sort of. Within Queens Voc, there will be four smaller schools, known as Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs).

According to Mr. Gorman, the aim is to build a more personalized environment for the students of Queens Voc.

Theme teams made up of teachers and administrators were formed to organize the SLCs and to coordinate the school's curriculum.

School of Computer and Electronic Engineering Technology

The School of Computer and Electronic Engineering Technologies (SCEET) includes the computer technology and electronics shops. Students in computer technology will have the opportunity to be certified by the school in computer networking, network cabling technician-copper, and A+ computer repair technician. Electronics students will have the chance to be certified in network cabling technician-copper and network cabling technician-fiber optics. Upon graduation, students who have completed either of the two programs could have also earned 6 to 14 college credits.

According to Mr. Gorman, students in SCEET will use a new robotics lab, which will be located in the new part of the school. The school will also keep the current computer technology and electronics labs on the 3rd and 4th floors.

Mr. Gorman, who will be the school's director, is also the theme team coordinator for SCEET. The theme team is

continued on page 2

Regents Schedule for January 2005

compiled by Elvis Collado

Tuesday **January 25**	Wednesday **January 26**	Thursday **January 27**	Friday **January 28**
9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am
Comprehensive English: Session One RCT in Mathematics	Comprehensive English: Session Two RCT in Science	Regents in Global History and Geography RCT in Writing	Regents in Living Environment RCT in Global Studies
1:15 pm	1:15 pm	1:15 pm	1:15 pm
Regents in Mathematics A	RCT in U.S. History & Government	Regents in U.S. History & Government RCT in Reading	**Good Luck!**

SO News

by Sandy Rodriguez

For the first time, Queens Voc's student organization office has co-presidents, and so far "we have been very cooperative in making key decisions," said Amber Kaur, one of the co-presidents.

Every year during the holidays Ms. Hulak ran a fundraiser to buy less fortunate kids toys. Since Ms. Hulak has retired, Mr. Vega and the SO decided to keep the tradition alive at Queens Voc. The fundraising for Toys for Tots took place between December 7 and December 15. SO officers and leadership students went around the school during classes to collect money. They raised $600. With the money in hand, they bought toys at Toys "R" Us and wrapped them back at the school. On Thursday, December 23, Mr. Vega, SO officers, and some leadership students brought the toys to St. Raphael's Church, just a few blocks away from Queens Voc.

The SO sponsored a trip to Madison Square Garden to watch the New York Knicks play the Orlando Magic on December 3. The price per ticket was $19, which included a food coupon and transportation. The SO office sold out of tickets. Forty students attended the trip. The food served was a hotdog, a bag of chips, and soda. "I had a lot of fun, we even came out on TV, and Madison Square Garden gave QV a shout out and we all went crazy," said sophomore Joel Moreaux. "Everyone behaved and represented the school very well," said SO co-president, Stephanie Fernandez.

Spirit Week took place the week of November 15-19 and was a success, according to Stephanie Fernandez. "Many students participated and are being given a pizza party for their participation," she said. SO plans to have another Spirit Week during the spring term.

The SO also sponsored the Honor Roll trip to Wolman Rink in Central Park and the Hard Rock Café in Midtown Manhattan. The trip was for students with an average of 85 or above on their June 2004 report cards. The trip originally was scheduled for Tuesday,

continued on page 2

Honor roll students representing Queens Voc.

Hard Work *Does* Pay Off
Honor Roll Trip Well Attended

by Germania Collado

On Tuesday December 14, fifty-one students attended the Honor Roll trip to Wolman Rink and the Hard Rock Café.

Students who achieved an 85 average or above on their June 2004 report card, were rewarded with a trip to go ice-skating and afterwards enjoy a meal at the Hard Rock Café.

The Honor Roll trip is an incentive for students to do well in their classes. "I wanted to achieve an 85 average or above to qualify for the trip because most of my friends go every year and they enjoy it and I wanted to go with them on this trip," said Ting Lin, a senior. "The trip is a reward from the SO to the students who do well in their schoolwork," said Stephanie Fernandez, a junior who achieved above an 85 average.

Seventy-one students qualified for the trip, but not all who qualified attended. Fifty-one students went on the trip and seven of those students included were invited to attend the trip because they were officers, members of the SLT, or a Leadership class member.

The trip was a delight to the students. "I enjoyed the trip because I was spending time with my friends and the places we went to were enjoyable," said sophomore Alan Casallas. Senior Yurly Olivares agrees. "The environment at both the ice-skating rink and restaurant were beautiful, everyone was having a good time," she said.

The students who attended the trip enjoyed it and appreciated the reward. "It's nice to know that the school makes an effort to reward the students who get 85 or above on their report cards. I had fun and I hope to return next year," said Jacqueline Rodriguez, a junior.

Names of Honor Roll Trip Attendees on Next Page.

What's Inside
this edition of *Vocational Voice*

Honor Roll Attendees . . . 2
Construction Update . . . 3
VICA, EI Bake Sale 4
Senior Personalities 5
Principal's Message 6
Feedback 7
Features 8
Places to Visit 9
Music Reviews 10
Shop Profiles 11
Anamaniacs 12
Inq. Photographer . . . 13
Tigers Sports 14-16

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

Honor Roll Trip Well Attended:

continued from front page

Honor Roll Students
Rasel Ahmed
Yolanis Barros
Taslima Begum
Matthew Bermudez
Erika Bernal
Alan Casallas
Andres Castano
Francisco Cardona Castro
Chia Hsicn Chang
Germania Collado
Valentina Colon
Jaqueline Concepcion
Jacqueline Corona
Sheriece Dawkins
Edward Duran
Melissa Encarnacion
Stephanie Fernandez
Bruno Gallego
Estefania Garcia
Szymon Gawel
Anthony Guimmo
Jenneth Grullon
Gaochao Huang
Raiza Izquierdo
Kacy James
Artur Karwowski
Amritjoty Kaur
Sorang Kim
Adiyasa Kurniadi
Ting Lin
Jose Lopez
Mercedes Lopez
Jeremy Lorenzi
Serena Maldonado
Kashif Malik
Beverly Marte
Sumon Miah
Sophia Mian
Jennifer Moy
Lillian Nieves
Yurly Olivares
Marjorie Ortiz
Sait Paljevic
Johnathan Pena Bonilla
Melvin Pena
Yesenia Pena
John Pimiento
Pleasant Powell
Arisleida Rodriguez
Diana Rodriguez
Jacqueline Rodriguez
Katiria Rodriguez
Denise Rosa
Jonathan Sanchez
Patsy Sanchez
Vivian Sanchez
Chansok Seng
Jacqueline Sepulveda
Harpreet Singh
Manjit Singh
Volodymyr Sulyk
Joel Tabares
Zeneida Tavarez
Alexander Tenf
Jeffrey Truong
Kamil Uminski
Janine Uribe
Stephanie Valerio
Angel Vasquez
Anna Kay Vaz
Tahjib Zaman

Senior Officers
Francisco Fiallos
Jessenia Vasquez
Tahjib Zaman

SO Officers
Israt Anima
Rattan Kaur
Jessica Rios

SLT Member
Giovanni Cano

Leadership
Suhail Ashraf

Smaller Learning Communities

continued from front page

working to develop curriculum that the students will follow. The SCEET theme team has decided to have their own colors, which will be blue and white. The theme team has designed a school t-shirt that will display their school logo. This t-shirt will be distributed to all students in SCEET. As of now, the theme team is "thinking of making the students wear them on Fridays," said Mr. Gorman.

SCEET plans to sponsor an after school chess club. The chess club, which will be directed by Mr. Papadopol, "will probably be available to all students but be sponsored by SCEET," confirmed Mr. Gorman.

School of Entrepreneurial Studies (SES)

This school, which will be directed by Ms. Newman, will include business and cosmetology.

SES will expand their *Dress for Success*. According to Ms. Newman, the dress code will be expanded upon for business and cosmetology students. The SES will run a simulated business that will be located in the new addition to the building, known as Virtual Enterprise.

Students that wish to participate in Virtual Enterprise will be interviewed to see if they are qualified. According to Ms. Newman, the set up of the interviews will all be designed in time for next year.

Business students will be offered more entrepreneurial courses with the support from La Guardia College. There will be professors from the college teaching these courses.

The cosmetology students will also be taking a salon management class.

School of Skilled Building Trades (SSBT)

SSBT, which will be directed by Mr. Garrison, will include plumbing and electrical installation. According to Mr. Garrison, students will be able to receive individualized help from teachers, since now these teachers will have smaller groups of classes to concentrate on. The teachers that currently teach plumbing and EI will continue to do so next year.

The requirements for students to be accepted into the school haven't been determined. The curriculum is "in the planning stage," said Mr. Garrison. The school is still in the planning stage.

School of Exploration and Discovery (SED)

SED, the school for freshmen, is directed by Ms. Radovich. According to Ms. Simon-Thomas, one of the SEDs' math teachers, everything in the school has been going smoothly.

In this school, students have a lot of input. During an advisory class, students discuss different issues like "health, career, conflict resolutions, and job skills," said Ms. Simon-Thomas.

With the help of students, the colors of the school have been enhanced. SED's school colors also include "black and gold," said Ms. Simon-Thomas. Students in SED have talked about a special logo for their school. They want the logo to be a "baby tiger," said Ms. Simon-Thomas.

The students have formed a student council. They meet during their lunch period to talk about any issues that may come up within SED or any concerns they have.

According to Ms. Simon-Thomas, next school year SED will hopefully form sports teams.

SED will continue to follow many of their current routines next year too.

Electronics class look so fresh & so clean in new jerseys.

A New Sense of Style for Mr. Ali's Electronics Class

by Oscar Gutierrez

Each morning, in room 307, students in senior electronics class go about their usual work, designing electronics circuits, building electronic projects, and troubleshooting problems. But on Fridays, there's something noticeably different, the students all wear blue shirts.

As a gift to seniors for all their hard work and dedication, Mr. Ali purchased "unity shirts" that would represent the shop class throughout the school. "I thought the class would look unique, they would be proud for being in electronics," said Mr. Ali.

The class chose the color design. "We chose blue because as a primary color it will show uniqueness, and stands out," said Sait Paljevic, one of the senior electronics students. The money for the shirts came from Mr. Ali's soccer coaching. "The students only had to pay five dollars, that way they pay for part of it and they will tend to appreciate the shirts a little bit more," Mr. Ali said.

"The shirts show the shop class as a team in front of the school, it shows that we worked together to make the class better," said James Fernandez, another senior electronics student. Students in Mr. Ali's senior shop class will wear the "unity shirts" every Friday until the end of the year. "I think the blue shirts unify the whole electronics class," said Raymond Chiu, another electronic student.

This is the first time Mr. Ali has done this. "Last year, I wanted to give the seniors shirts, but I used the money to get personal electronics projects for them instead," said Mr. Ali. "This year I have a great senior electronics class and I had the opportunity to get them the shirts," he added.

Faculty members throughout the school have noticed the senior electronics attire. "They look very professional with their shirts, and I congratulate Mr. Ali for having a very nice class," said Ms. Ehrlich.

"The aim is to build a more personalized environment for the students of Queens Voc," said Mr. Gorman.

School to Work Alliances

by Matthew Bermudez

In order for teachers and principals to be more prepared to equip students for successful careers in the 21st century, New York Citywide School to Work Alliances (STW Alliances) has provided Queens Voc with valuable professional development opportunities.

STW Alliances has created a program for teachers to become up-to-date on the demands and realities of modern companies and corporations. This program, called Teacher Job Shadow, helps teachers learn the expectations of employers. This should help students realize the importance of their core academics, and motivate them to stay in school and formulate a plan for their personal success.

On Election Day 2004, twenty Queens Voc teachers spent the citywide professional development day at North Fork Bank's Melville headquarters. They discussed various methods of preparing students for jobs, such as adding verbal and writing skills, personal appearance, and social skills into the school's expectations and curriculum.

"[Teacher Job Shadow] was one of the best professional development programs that I've ever participated in," said Ms. Newman, an assistant principal at Queens Voc. "Teacher Job Shadow Day exceeded my expectations," said Ms. Cooper, Senior Vice President of North Fork and coordinator of the program. By the end of the program, participants were already discussing how to apply the newly learned principles.

According to the STW Alliances website, www.stwalliance.org/job_shadow_pilot.html, "One educator who is up-to-date on the industry's professional opportunities and skills requirements has the potential to broadcast their knowledge and enthusiasm to hundreds of students..."

SO News

continued from front page

December 7, but was postponed due to rain and rescheduled to Tuesday, December 14. The students ice-skated at Wolman Rink and ate lunch at the Hard Rock Café. Yurly Olivares, a senior who attended the Honor Roll trip, said, "It was a new, fun, and exciting experience for me. The Hard Rock Café was very relaxing and it had many famous people's autographed clothing and accessories." The lunch menu included chicken sandwiches and burgers served with french fries.

Mr. Rodriguez leads the way for Grupo QV.

Grupo QV Back In Action

Celebrating Spanish Heriatge Month

by Alberto Aspiazu

Queens Voc hosted its first ever Spanish Heritage Concert, on Tuesday, November 23, in the cafetorium, at 4:30 in the afternoon. The concert was a spin-off of last year's First Annual Talent Show.

Karlos Amaro, who graduated in June 2004, came up with the idea to start a band in order to be able to perform Bachata and Tipico, two types of Spanish music, in last year's talent show. He gained the support from a few classmates, and held an audition to recruit other talented musicians. Their performance in the talent show was such a success that the remaining members of the band were eager to celebrate their heritage again. The following year, Grupo QV put together this Spanish Heritage Concert, in order to do just that.

Getting permission to put on the concert was no easy task for the newly resurrected band. "I had to get permission from Ms. Vittor, the principal, in order to hold such an event at the school. Mr. Vela, head of security, also had to give me the okay in order to have school safety agents chaperon," said Mr. Rodriguez, a computer-tech teacher, who acted as the band's hype man, and sang backup on all of the songs.

The student members of the band all attend Queens Voc, except for Jessi Collado, who played the bass. He attends Franklin K. Lane High School. "The intro and the goodbye that we performed were created by me," said Leo Tavares, the guitar player, who sang most of the songs. Jason Brunder played the drums; Junior Perez played the guiira, an Hispanic hand instrument, and helped sing some of the songs, and Anthony Abreu played the battery, a sound effects machine.

Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, provided the stage equipment, such as the monitors, microphones, and speakers, which made such a concert possible.

"The band got together and practiced at least three times a week, usually on Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday, but some weeks the days fluctuated," said Mr. Rodriguez. The practices were held at either Leo's or Jessi's home. "The practices usually lasted about three hours each," said Leo. Some of the songs the band practiced and performed were "Sufrimento" by Xtreme, "Quien Eres Tu" by Frank Reyes, and "El General" by Geovanni Polanco.

According to Mr. Vega, a hundred and twelve students attended the event. "The concert was exciting, it was a chance for faculty and student to get together and appreciate Spanish heritage," said Giovanni Cano, a senior at Queens Voc. Senior Liliana Coriazaca concurs. "I enjoyed the music, and look forward to watching Grupo QV perform again."

Grupo QV had originally planned to perform twelve songs, but their act was cut short because of a delayed start. "We were scheduled to start playing at 4:30, but didn't start until 5 pm," said Leo. The group performed ten songs. "Except for the premature ending, everything went right, our goal was to entertain the students and help them appreciate our Spanish heritage," said Jason.

Grupo QV has decided to never play outside of Queens Voc, and remain exclusive to in-school functions, such as the upcoming talent show this spring. According to Jason, "each member has a different group they currently play in, so no future plans to play together are being made."

Jay & Jr. playing together.

Senior News & Activities

by Ali Khan

Seniors, it is coming closer and closer to graduation.

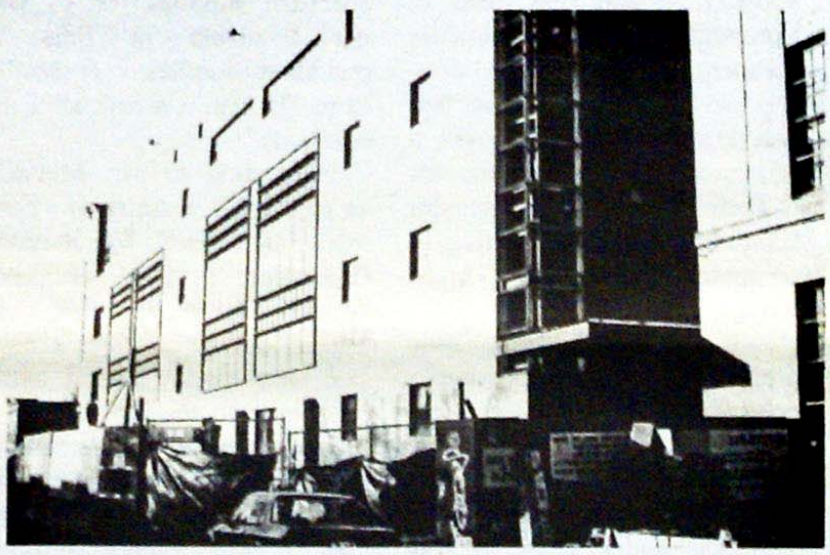
The 3-day/2-night senior trip will be held January 28-30, at the Pinegrove Ranch in Kerhonkson, NY. The package includes round trip transportation via deluxe motor coach, unlimited free skiing with new ski equipment and lessons included, unlimited snow tubing, use of facilities such as basketball, tennis, volleyball, ping-pong, miniature golf, bocci ball, game room, and shuffleboard, and a snack bar with unlimited free hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, French fries, ice cream cones, and beverages, from 10am-12 midnight. Unlimited paintball and laser tag are also included at no additional charge. The ranch will serve two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners. The price of the trip is $219 per person for five people per room, and $229 per person for four people per room.

The senior luncheon is on Friday, April 1, and the theme is "Black and White Ball."

The senior food festival originally scheduled for November will be rescheduled. "It was supposed to be held two days before Thanksgiving, but we decided to reschedule it because we realized that it would be a big burden on the parents who would be cooking for two events, one for Thanksgiving and one for the food festival," said Francisco Fiallos, the senior class secretary.

The prom is going to be held at Terrace on the Park.

The senior dues of $120 have already been collected. That money will go towards the yearbook ($65), senior t-shirt ($10), diploma cover ($6), cap and gown ($16), and graduation expenses ($23).



New building taking shape.

Construction Update:

New Building on the Way

by Russell Inniss

Students and staff at Queens Vocational Technical High School are looking forward with excitement and anticipation to the completion of the new addition to the school.

This much needed addition promises to complement the present building, allowing its students, teachers, and other staff members to enjoy facilities such as a cafeteria and a gymnasium, which are standard in other high schools. For many years, the school's auditorium has served as a cafeteria, and the school yard as a gym. The school's modest library has often been used as a multi-purpose room.

With this new addition, however, there will be a well-equipped cafeteria, where all meals can be prepared on site, a spacious gymnasium with a full basketball court and retractable bleachers, and a new library with multimedia equipment.

In addition to the cafeteria, gymnasium, and library, there will be new shop classrooms for electrical, plumbing, and cosmetology. There will be a new computer lab for business students and a robotics room for electronics students. An elevator will be installed so that those who are physically challenged can have access to all floors. Teachers and other staff members can look forward to new offices, a faculty room, and conference rooms.

The new addition to Queens Voc promises to fill the needs of both students and teachers alike.

A look at the future.

Mice hard at work.

MOUSE Attack

by Syeda Ali

The Queens Voc MOUSE squad was started in April 2004 by Mr. Rodriguez, a computer technology teacher and Queens Voc graduate.

MOUSE (Making Opportunities for Upgrading Schools and Education) was created to improve technology in NYC public schools.

Students don't have to major in computer technology to be on the MOUSE Squad, but "students must have a good average, good attendance in school, and have an understanding of the basic computer system," said Mr. Rodriguez.

This year's MOUSE Squad consists of seven members: Suhail Ashraf, Kacy James, Somag Kim, Sumon Miah, Melvin Pena, David Ramirez, and Harpreet Singh. The students involved repair school computers that don't work, but, says Mr. Rodriguez, "The primary goal of the MOUSE Squad is to give students hands-on practical experience in computer technology."

Students in MOUSE work before or after school and get paid $6 an hour. So far, the students have fixed computers with viruses, according to Sorang Kim a junior in computer technology. "Right now the computers in Queens Voc are more protected," said senior Suhail Ashraf, who is also majoring in c-tech.

The MOUSE squad recently helped with the computers in the Writing and Research Center, room 301, by installing programs for the yearbook and school newspaper. Ms. Lewis, the librarian, found the students to be "very efficient, and reliable and diligent workers."

Many of the MOUSE Squad members joined to learn more about computers and to gain real-life job experiences, according to Kacy James, a sophomore in c-tech. MOUSE membership "furthers my knowledge in the computer technology field," he said.

VICA Prepares to Compete
In Upstate Vocational Tournament

by Vivian Sanchez

Want to get a chance to demonstrate your vocational skills and perhaps win scholarships? VICA, a world-wide organization that holds a variety of competitions, allows students to find their vocational niche and compete for a chance to win scholarships.

Many students are not aware of the benefits that come from being a VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) member and having the chance to participate in a statewide competition. According to Mr. Cintron, who has been the Queens Voc VICA advisor for four years, students will get the chance to represent their school, meet new people, learn the importance of teamwork, and develop as workers.

VICA is interested in students who excel in their shop classes and have the potential to compete well in their area.

Students from computer technology can compete in computer maintenance technology, internetworking, or technical computer applications. Those in electrical installation can participate in the residential wiring or industrial motor control competitions. Students in electronics can compete in electronics technology or electronics applications competitions. Those in business can participate in the job interview, chapter business procedure, or data entry competitions. Students in plumbing can enter the plumbing competitions. Students in cosmetology can participate in either the cosmetology or the nail care competitions.

"Students who aren't confident in their shop skills have the chance to enter competitions that are not shop-related. There are over twenty occupational skills in which Queens Voc students can compete," said Mr. Cintron.

There are numerous competitions that are not shop-related, such as extemporaneous speaking, prepared speech, job interview skills, community service, occupational health and safety, chapter display, or a VICA Quiz Bowl.

Students can also compete in the opening and closing ceremonies competition, which is an oral presentation competition that evaluates the teams' understanding of the symbolic representation of the colors and assembled parts of the SkillsUSA emblem.

Only one student from each grade can enter the same competition. If more than one student from the same grade wants to enter in the same competition, VICA will hold an in-school competition to see who is the best. That person will go on to compete in Syracuse, New York. The in-school competitions will be held during January and early February.

Students who win at the statewide competition in Syracuse go on to participate in the nationwide competition, and winners at this level go on to participate in the international competition. Prizes vary each year but can range from cash prizes to full tuition scholarships.

Representatives from universities, colleges, and well-known companies go to the VICA competitions to scout for talent. "Students who participate in the competitions have the chance to be seen by these representatives," said Mr. Cintron.

"Participating in VICA looks really good on my college application and job resume. Competing in the statewide competition is a very educational experience. The fact that I might be able to get a scholarship and recognition for C-Tech is a plus," said Rajendra Bharath, a junior competing in computer maintenance technology.

VICA members are now preparing for the upcoming competition in Syracuse, New York. The trip will take place April 6-8. Members are also planning to hold fundraisers to lower the student costs, such as the $70 registration fee.

According to Mr. Cintron, VICA meets at least once a week to prepare and share any additional information on the upcoming competition. "When the competition dates get closer, we tend to meet more and practice more often," said Mr. Cintron. Students can practice more during their shop classes by "receiving from their shop teachers practical exercises on the work they will be required to do in the competition."

Queens Voc VICA members will compete against other New York State high schools at OnCenter, located in The Hotel Syracuse, where VICA members will stay during the three day/two night trip.

Potential VICA members are Rajendra Bharath, Jackie Calle, Salman Khan, Samira Lesure, Kashif Malik, David Ramirez, Jonathan Sanchez, and Patsy Sanchez.

"This is a chance to be seen by important people and perhaps be offered a job or be selected by a college representative. Who knows, I might even get some scholarships," said Samira Lesure, a VICA member.

Richie wants more food.

EI Bake Sale

by Sumon Miah

The lack of supplies in the electrical installation shops led to the first-ever EI bake sale in early December. The bake sale, held periods 3 through 8 on Thursday, December 2, raised $500 for supplies.

The money that was allocated by the school to purchase supplies for EI was not available in time to purchase supplies. It finally came through a month after the bake sale.

According to Mr. Mendez, an EI teacher, the idea of a bake sale was raised by Ramona Bencosme. "She was concerned about supplies and figured that if we had a bake sale, the money raised could contribute to the purchasing of consumables." Implementing the idea, however, was not an easy task. "When I first had the idea, I didn't receive positive feedback. No one wanted to do anything," said Romana, a senior in EI. "We were in desperate need of supplies and were not funded, and I was tired of hearing 'do something about it.' I was determined to prove to everyone it could be done," Ramona added.

With a month to prepare, Ramona and the senior EI students created posters informing the student body when the bake sale would take place. While that was being done, "the prices had to be set by the senior EI shop class. Then the list of items sold and their prices had to be given to Ms. Vittor. She had to look over the prices to see if they are reasonable. Lastly, we had to set December 2 as the date for the bake sale and had permission slips signed for the students involved," said Mr. Mendez.

"Having an EI bake sale was great. It was a big step toward purchasing some of the supplies needed," said Fernando Nunez, a senior in EI. Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu, another senior in EI, concurred. "We really needed supplies and the school had no money to give, so we made the best out of a bad situation."

The bake sale had a positive impact in all EI classes. "The students will now have enough supplies to circulate around the class," said Mr. Lai. "Now, students will not have to wait for another student's project to be finished in order to get materials," he added.

"Having an EI bake sale was great. It was a big step toward purchasing some supplies needed," said Fernando Nunez, a senior in EI.

Students from all junior and senior EI shops participated. "Students brought in baked goods from home and donated goods they purchased from their local shopping center. Teachers also contributed by bringing in some baked items," said Mr. Maloney. The baked goods consisted of cakes, cookies, and other sweets. Beverages included juices and soda.

The students involved with the bake sale were delighted with the outcome. "It was stressful," said Giovanni Cano, a senior in EI, "but overall, it was worth it. The sale helped raise money, and it united all the EI shop classes. The other shop classes supported the bake sale tremendously," Giovanni added.

The EI bake sale raised more than the usual amount, which ranges from two to three hundred dollars. "We did not expect to make $500," said Oscar Gutierrez, a senior in EI. "The money that was raised is enough to buy switches, connectors, conduits, and all types of consumable items until the end of the year," said Mr. Maloney.

"The profit made from the bake sale has already begun to show in our classes," said Alberto. "The supplies that were bought are light bulbs for the lighting fixtures, dimmers, various types of switches duplex receptacles, and lamp sockets," said Ramona.

Spotlight
on Ms. Williams

by Jose Ortiz

Ms. Williams, a 1985 graduate of Queens College, is Queens Voc's social worker. She has been working in Queens Voc for thirteen years. Her job as the school social worker is to help students with the problems they encounter in their everyday lives.

Ms. William guides students on issues such as relationships, sex, drugs, and even college preparation. Conversations with Ms. William are confidential, she said because her goal is "to get students to deal with their problems without harming themselves or others while doing so."

Ms. Williams, who received her master's degree from Adelphi University, chose this field because she has "always been interested in human behavior." She especially likes working with teenagers because "they are at the age in which they are starting to deal with mature problems," she said. Ms. Williams takes this as a "sign of maturing," which is "the most important event in a child's life," she said.

Ms. Kurnitz, who leads a group known as SPARK (Special Program for At Risk Kids), helps Ms. Williams run the School Based Support Team (SBST). This program meets on Mondays, during fourth period, in room 201. "SBST works on scenarios that occur during every day life and together try to come up with positive ways to solve the problems," Ms. Williams said.

"Not all students come to me because they are having problems. Some of them just want someone to listen to them or to help them gather their thoughts," Ms. Williams added. Students who are not able to talk with her may leave a letter with their name in her mailbox in the Main Office. Students may go to see her on Mondays and Tuesdays in room 201 or 312.

Ms. Williams: good listener.

Student members of the school leadership team.

School Leadership Team
Unite to Improve Queens Voc

by Adiyasa Kurniadi

The SLT, also known as the School Leadership Team, acts as an advisory board to the principal, and helps the principal deal with issues concerning the school. On the SLT are two student representatives from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, as well as parents and staff representatives. Together, they discuss the school's budget, problems in the school, and how to implement ideas to help improve the school.

The student members of SLT are seniors Giovanni Cano and Sumon Miah, juniors Stephanie Fernandez and Jessica Rios, and newly elected sophomore representatives Diomedes Gonzalez and Ariel Cruz. The parents and staff representatives are Ms. Camacho, Mr. Inniss, Ms. Mastrosimone, Ms. Baez Medina, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Schimenz, Ms. Stirling, Mr. Vela, and Ms. Vittor.

"I think that the students, staff, and parents working together is a great idea because we can help improve the school together," said Jessica Rios. "Working with students who are a part of the SLT is critical for progress. They play an instrumental role in the decision process of all issues. The function of stability of a school is based on the students, it's only fair that their opinions are voiced and considered," said Mr. Rodriguez.

To qualify to be a member of the SLT, students must have good grades in school, and have good behavior, that is, the student doesn't cut classes, hasn't been in fights, and hasn't been suspended.

SLT meetings are held monthly, at 4pm in the old library. There have been five meetings so far this year. At the meeting in September, the SLT dates for SLT meetings, and Ms. Vittor explained the change in the school budget systems.

At the October meeting, SLT members Giovanni Cano and Sumon Miah discussed the positive turnout of sophomores interested in serving on the SLT. Later, the SLT reviewed their own School Leadership Team by-laws, amending them to include Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs). Next year, SLT representatives will be chosen by SLCs.

At the November meeting, Ms. Vittor welcomed the new student members of the SLT, Diomedes Gonzalez and Ariel Cruz. Diomedes and Ariel, newly elected sophomore representatives, spoke briefly about who they were and why they ran for SLT. Mr. Vela, who serves as SLT chairman, was also selected as financial liaison.

At the December meeting, the SLT focused on guidelines for the C-30 process, which is the process for selecting assistant principals. Ms. Vittor led a review of the C-30 Regulations and asked SLT members to participate on the selection committees. There are three impending C-30 committees for assistant principals: APO, AP-ISS, AP-Humanities. The six students agreed that each student would serve on a committee, fulfilling the requirements to have 1-2 students on each C-30 committee.

"The SLT is a good way for students to get involved in school..." said Jessica Rios.

On Wednesday, January 5, the SLT continued to discuss the C-30 process. Mr. Vela discussed SLT new member training, to help new members better understand the SLT's role.

"The SLT is a good way for students to get involved in school and to be more informed about what's going on," Jessica Rios said.

Most This, Best That...
Seniors Select Personalities

by Elvis Collado

Queens Voc's yearbook committee conducts the search for the Senior Personalities, a part of the yearbook that allows all seniors to pick students who are the best in a variety of categories.

On December 16, the students voted, in Room 301. The voting was held to decide on who best fit each personality. Each student was allowed to vote once and only once to make the voting fair.

Thanks Ms. Muresan, yearbook advisor, for the results and congratulations to all the winners.

Category	Male	Female
Flirtatious	Kevin Depass	Stephanie Jorge
Best Hair	Luis Perez	Rosanny Espinal
Most Likely to Succeed	Tajhib Zaman	Vivian Sanchez
Most Unique	Carl Huhn	Vanessa Macareno
Best Smile	Vional Joseph	Germania Collado
Class Clown	Agusto Santana	Michelle Peña
Best Eyes	Timothy Perez	Catalina Ramon
Friendliest	Sandy Rodriguez	Ingrid Cotrina
Head Turner	Jairo Fernandez	Yurly Olivares
Best Dressed	Carlos Remache	Ruby Gonzalez
Cutest Couple	Alberto Aspiazu	Lilliana Coraizaca

Different and unique in each and every way.

The Legacy Continues

by Russell Inniss

The Queens Voc yearbook is a memento that seniors can treasure for a lifetime.

In charge of the yearbooks is Ms. Muresan, who is assisted by a committee of seniors. Together, they are working to make the 2004-2005 yearbooks memorable. "We want a great yearbook," said Sumon Miah, "and we're working hard every-day to achieve that goal."

According to Sumon, the yearbook committee has decided, by way of vote, to give the yearbook the title, *The Legacy Continues* and the theme of the yearbook will be *Echoes of Yesterday*.

According to Ms. Muresan, the yearbook will contain not only senior portraits, but will also feature seniors' baby pictures, teachers and staff photos, a senior class picture, shop class photos, sports pages, autograph pages, and photos of school events and activities.

Each section of the yearbook has deadlines the committee must meet. The first section was completed in December. The second must be completed by January 23 and the third must be in by March. The final deadline has to be met by May, so that the yearbooks can be distributed in June.

The price of a yearbook is $65, "so if students would like to share this memento with others they should turn in their senior dues," Ms. Muresan said.

The students on the yearbook committee are Syeda Ali, Israt Anima, Ingrid Cotrina, Kevin Depass, Karla Devouse, Kimberly Estevez, Felicia Franco, Carl Huhn, Rattan Kaur, Amritjoty Kaur, Ambar Marrero, Sumon Miah, Yurly Olivares, Michelle Peña, Nahem Rahman, Anniesa Ramsahai, Alexis Ramirez, Vanessa Reyna, Juana Rosario, Shalimar Ruiz, Shameka Smith, and Tahjib Zaman.

Committee members take pictures, raise funds, proofread, and edit layouts.

"Putting the layouts together takes time, but the committee members are determined to do their best," Ms. Muresan said.

Making It Everyday

compiled by Addison Davis

Waking up early for school can be a drag. Yet some Queens Voc students have attended everyday since school started in September.

Vocational Voice, with the help of Mr. Daniel, Queens Voc's attendance coordinator, again presents the students who have made a conscious effort to come to school daily.

These 59 dedicated students have excellent attendance since the first day of school:

Arjenis Abreu	202
Edwin Adames	104
Jarvis Alexis	401
Michael Amato	321
Humberto Batista	201
Byron Bunay	301
Christopher Butera	311
Armando Calpeno	252
Michelle Cespedes	321
Lizbeth Colon	222
Jacqueline Corona	312
Christian Douglas	411
Emanuel Dunkley	301
Nandy Fernandez	222
Francisco Fiallos	421
Anabella Fortuny	421
Bruno Gallego	311
Wojciech Gula	202
Oscar Gutierrez	401
Kareem Hobson	103
William Huazhco	311
Shatipha Hudgins	111
Dayana Jaramillo	104
Daishon Jones	103
Tyree Josey	105
Amritjoty Kaur	411
Sorang Kim	312
Johnny Lata	322
Joseph LiVecchi	411
Kashif Malik	312
Majdi Mansour	311
Matthew Mccoy	301
Jovany Tobon Mejia	311
Fernando Mendez	201
Syed Mian	371
Jennifer Miranda	322
Eliana Morocho	322
Jennifer Moy	322
Sameer Mozeb	202
Ivan Munoz	302
Bernard Paul	312
Melvin Pena	311
Yesenia Pena	322
Emmanuel Portorreal	111
Darren Powers	261
Alfredo Poveda	212
Angelica Rodriguez	112
Yuneydys Rondon	321
Denise Rosa	322
Waleed Samar	212
Reid Samedi	261
Harpreet Singh	411
Christophe Tavarez	203
Angel Vasquez	301
Geraldine Vargas	322
Lukasz Zaczeniuk	201
Tahjib Zaman	421

Congratulations!!!
Keep up the good work

Editorials – What's the Point?

We had several editorials in mind for this edition. But our journalism advisor did not find them appropriate. They were "constructive criticisms."

There are two types of editorials: those that praise, and those that point out problems and offer solutions. More often, we rightfully praise the school. But when there is a need to improve, we point out ways to do so.

Teachers and administrators expect students to improve from their constructive criticism. So why do adults consider ours "divisive"? We are looking for ways to improve our school, and we know that we can't improve if we can't admit our problems. Let's not settle for good enough.

Not twins, not triplets, but sexytuplets!!!

Spirit Week

A Whole Week to be Abnormal

by Anabella Fortuny

Students walking the halls in their pajamas is not normal behavior, but during Spirit Week, students are supposed to be different.

The themes for Spirit Week are chosen by the students. A tally is distributed to students during lunch periods two to three weeks before Spirit Week. Once the votes are counted, the five themes with the most votes are the Spirit Week themes.

Monday was Pajama Day. Students were allowed to attend school in their pajamas. Loraine Alba, who participated in Pajama Day, said "I felt so comfortable walking around in my pajamas, I felt as though I was at home; I loved it."

Tuesday was Heritage Day. Students got the chance to represent their nationalities by bringing flags, jerseys, belts, and traditional items from their countries of origin. Matthew Markiewicz, who participated, said, "It gives you a chance to show your true colors, and represent your nationality to the fullest." Andrea Cevallos said, "you can also meet people from your same nationality, who you never knew attended the school."

Wednesday was Triplet/Twin Day. Students dressed alike as twins or triplets, whichever they preferred. Angelica Lopez and Jessenia Vasquez dressed alike. "We have been participating in Spirit Week for the past four years, we love twin day because we are best friends and it's fun," said Jessenia. "It also adds a variance in the school days, it makes the days fun for a change," Angelica added.

Thursday was Colored T-Shirt Day. Students wore different colored t-shirts to represent their shop. This year, plumbing students wore black, cosme-tology pink, business white, c-tech royal blue, electronics gray, and EI red. "I enjoyed participating on this day, it was fun because my whole cosme-tology class was wearing pink, that's not something you see everyday," said Yurly Olivares.

Hat day was the grand finale. On Friday, as many students wore hats throughout the day. They were encouraged to wear crazy or funny hats, but most wore their regular baseball caps. "It gives you a chance to wear a hat the whole day, without being worried about the deans taking it away," Alexis Ramirez said.

Students who participated in Spirit Week were eligible to win a pizza party, if their grade level had the best participation for a day. Forty-four students in the freshmen class participated and won the pizza party for Pajama Day. The sophomore class had a double win this year, winning Heritage Day with fifty-five students participating and Twin/Triplet day with thirty-seven. The junior class had a double win, as well. Sixty-one juniors participated in the Colored T-shirt Day and seventy-one participated in Hat Day.

Vocational Voice

Queens Vocational & Technical High School

37-02 47th Avenue
L.I.C., NY 11101

Tel 718.937.3010
Fax 718.392.8397

Email:
VocVoice@aol.com

Ms. Denise Vittor
Principal

Ms. Radovich-Gonzalez
AP, Humanities

Mr. Vela
AP, Administration

Mr. Rob Schimenz
Advisor

Managing Editor
Sumon Miah

Layout Editors
Israt Anima
Alberto Aspiazu
Germania Collado
Anabella Fortuny
Oscar Gutierrez
Amber Kaur
Sandy Rodriguez
Vivian Sanchez
Daryl Villavicencio

Contributors
Syeda Ali
Matthew Bermudez
David Bonilla
Elvis Collado
Addison Davis
Francisco Fiallos
Russell Inniss
Ali Khan
Adiyasa Kurniadi
Joseph Livecchi
Lillian Nieves
Jose Ortiz
Johnathan Pena-Bonilla
Jessica Rios
Michael Saldarriaga
Jonathan Sanchez
Jose Sandoval
Harpreet Singh
Leonardo Taveras
Tahjib Zaman

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

Principal's Message

QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
Denise Vittor, Principal

As we end the Fall Semester and begin a new year, it is a good time to assess our progress as we approach the midpoint of the 2004 - 2005 school year.

By the time you read this message, you will have completed your midterms and will be heading into Regents week. This year we annualized our programs, so this month does not just mark the end of a semester, but rather the halfway mark in our year long courses. Last year, we would refer to this time period with finality - you took your final exams, you either passed or failed the subject, and you moved on to the next term, often with another teacher. Now that we are an annualized school, your exams were midterms, and your grades – whether passing or failing, are only an assessment of your progress thus far. If you passed your classes, you are well on your way to a successful year. If you failed one or some of your classes, you still have a shot of passing those classes for the year if you put your mind to it and work diligently. The year isn't over until June, and that is how you should perform – steadily improving until the report card grades are given in June. Your June grades will determine whether you move up to the next grade level or you repeat the subject for the year.

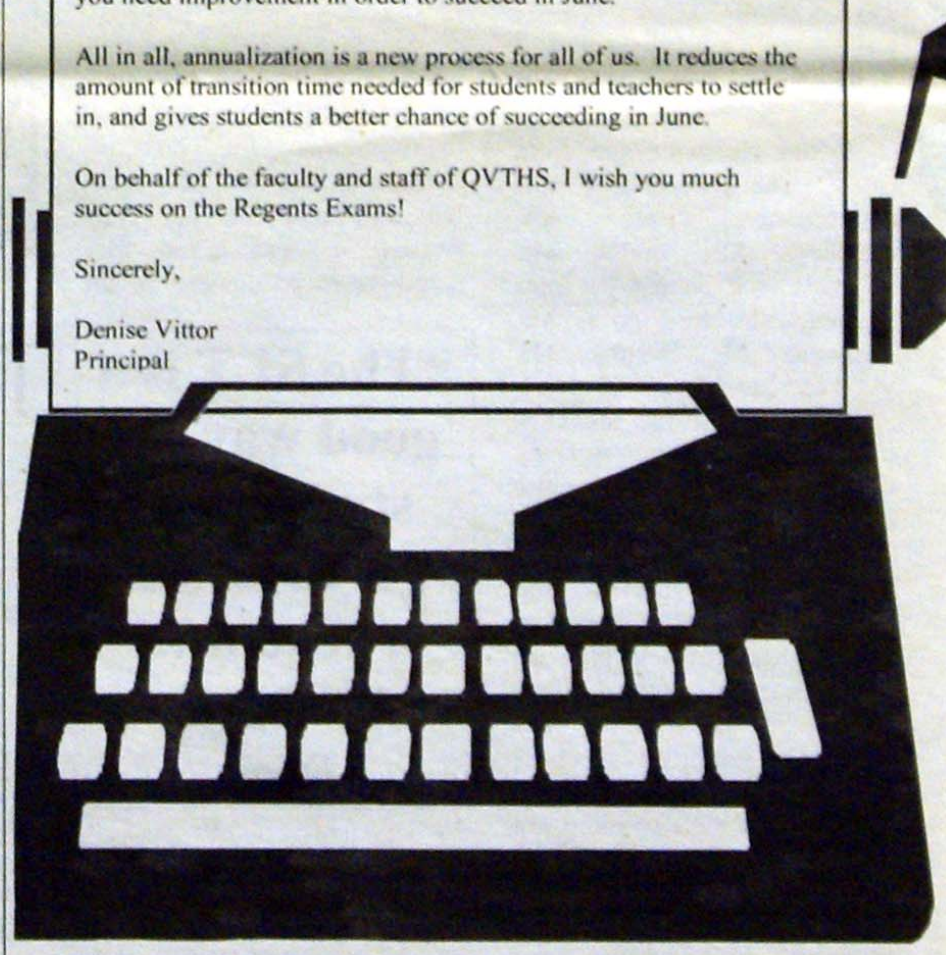
There are some other benefits to annualization, too. There will be fewer program changes, and a shorter period of transition for everyone, since most of you will have the same teacher. For the most part, books will not have to be reissued because the same books will be used in the Spring for the second half of the course. Your class can pick up where you left off in the curriculum, rather than starting from the beginning with pre- testing and/or introductory work. If you did some excellent work in the Fall semester, it still counts toward your overall progress in your classes. Your January Regents scores will be used to identify areas where you need improvement in order to succeed in June.

All in all, annualization is a new process for all of us. It reduces the amount of transition time needed for students and teachers to settle in, and gives students a better chance of succeeding in June.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of QVTHS, I wish you much success on the Regents Exams!

Sincerely,

Denise Vittor
Principal



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

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

Mr. Schimenz
Main Office

OuR ReadeRs SpeaK OuT

by Israt Anima

The fall edition of The *Vocational Voice* resulted in 48 letters from our readers. We appreciate the feedback; it motivates us journalists to write better articles.

The Queens Voc journalists received a card from Ms. Hulak, a former Queens Voc English teacher, and visits from Ms. Vittor and Ms. Radovich-Gonzalez, congratulating them for the fall edition of the *Vocational Voice*. The letters included encouragement and constructive criticism.

"Construction Update" by Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu and Sumon Miah caught the attention of many readers. Richard Mosavea wrote, "I think it's a well written article about something that all students are looking forward to seeing." Adrienne Diaz was also glad that the article was included. "It's good to know what's happening in the school and how they're trying to improve it," she wrote. But there is always room for improvements. Louis Hernandez believes "more pictures of the new building should be included." Artur Karwowski does not believe the date that is set for the new annex. "Every other person I've heard has doubts about the date that has been set," he wrote.

Alberto Aspiazu's article, "New School, New AP" was "well written and informative" wrote Melissa Encarnacion. Jacqueline Corona also thinks the article was well written and informative. She wasn't aware that "Ms. Radovich-Gonzalez was going to be the new assistant principal." Peter Rodriguez wrote, "I enjoyed the article, and I think Ms. Radovich-Gonzalez is going to really do a good job as the new assistant principal."

Francisco Fiallos received a few letters for his article "Free Breakfast and Lunch." Viviana Morocho said the article was important to her because she eats school lunch. "Sometimes it tastes good, but sometimes it tastes old and not well-cooked." Wilson Gonzalez wrote, "Free lunch and breakfast is a good idea, however, because there is little lunch, a lot of kids don't get the same food others get." Yuneydys Rondon believes that "It's just not fair that we've got to eat the same food over and over." Angel Vasquez found Francisco's article very interesting. "I feel that this is a very important topic for students to understand that there is a free lunch program in our school."

"Elite Beauty Salon" by Addison Davis made some readers realize that a beauty salon was right in their school. Yinaury Sanchez wrote, "Many people, including me, didn't know about this salon, nor that it was right in our school." Dhayan Mego feels "that that Elite Beauty Salon is a very good idea and you could save a lot of money." Diomedes Gonzalez wrote that Addison's article "is interesting, and has a lot of information about what is going on in the salon. Although I do have one question, why are there only 24 girls chosen in the Elite Beauty Salon? Is there a certain reason for that?" Diomedes, there are forty-nine seniors in two senior classes working in the cosmo room. Elite Beauty Salon is the name of the morning class taught by Mr. Grochala. There are twenty-four beauticians working periods 1, 2, 3, and 4. The afternoon class, taught by Ms. Thomas periods 6, 7, 8, and 9, is not called the Elite Beauty Salon, but is open for business.

"Keeping QV Clean" by Vivian Sanchez was very important to Solangie Gomez. "I think this issue is important because maybe it will make us realize that garbage in school is becoming a problem." Diane Hernandez agrees with Vivian. "Students should help the custodians keep the school clean," she wrote. Martha Cartagena thinks "that the school aides should make all students pick up their trays and garbage before they are allowed to leave."

"New Personnel Working At Queens Voc" by Lillian Nieves

"It's good to know what's happening in the school," said Adrienne Diaz.

prompted a letter from Andrew Arevelo. "It is good to know that Queens Voc cares about their students," he wrote.

"Seniors Plan Active Year" by Syeda Ali interested Shakima Davis. "You have a lot of interesting facts and opinions in your article," Shakima wrote.

"Extra Extra Extracurricular Activities," by David Bonilla, resulted in several letters. Sirena Maldonado thinks "that articles like this might motivate students." Lee, Chi Keung thinks that, "With more extracurricular activities, students will have more options." Cathy Farfan wrote, until now, "I have never thought about how extracurricular activities could be at our advantage when we apply for colleges."

David also received a letter from Kevin Hamilton for his article, "New Endorsed Diplomas." Kevin had a few questions concerning the new endorsed diplomas. "If you get all your shop credits but you owe a couple of academic

"There is a mistake in the article. Jonathan Sanchez interviewed me and made a mistake and printed my friend Angel's name instead of mine," said Hubert Jagodzinski.

credits, are you able to go to night school and earn the remaining credits? Or do you have to come back to Queens Voc to earn your endorsed diploma? Also, can you go to night school to finish the rest of your remaining time in high school?" Those are good questions, Kevin, which could be answered by your guidance counselor, Mr. Holder.

Sumon Miah's article "Early College Prep=Less Stress" was very helpful to Jenneth Grullon, who wrote "It was very clear and precise in stating when to start preparing and how." "Sumon's article was great and an important topic to discuss," wrote Fernando Nunez, who added that "working early could get you better prepared for college," he wrote. Chansok Seng thinks, "Having a good average does payoff for college."

Euri Rojas did not agree with the response from students to the Inquiring Photographer article by Jessica Rios, "How do you feel about the war in Iraq?" Euri wrote, "I strongly disagree with Maria Faller, Estefania Garcia, and Ivan Gomez. Maria should know that it is our problem, and our business. Estefania and Ivan should know that if the war stops they will kill us all, and that terrorist attacks have to do with Arabs" from more than just one country. Christopher Marmelejo has similar thoughts. "I have to disagree with Ivan Gomez. How can he say terrorist attacks have nothing to do with the war in Iraq," Chris wrote.

Adiyasa Kurniadi received two letters for his article "Freshmen's First Impressions." "I don't like the things the freshmen said," Luis Valencia wrote. Thomas Mastrosimone asked, "Why do many freshmen hate this school?"

Germania Collado and Anabella Fortuny disappointed couple of our readers with their response in "Anamaniacs." Dadian Lopez thought that some of the advice wasn't right. "If the girl is playing her man it's a bad idea to tell her boyfriend." Jassil Diaz thinks that the advice should be a bit better. "I think you should really be honest when it came to Confused Person's problem." Anamanics suggested that the person seeking advice "Should be honest with your boyfriend and tell him the truth that you are seeing another person." Melanie Bencosme really likes the Anamanics column. "I feel the Anamaniacs help people see the options there are to problems."

Yanel Lerovx enjoyed "Music Reviews" by Sandy Rodriguez. "I agree with the review and the introductions to the artists are very helpful." Jessica Tapia wrote, "I think *Jimmy Eats World* album is the best. It's not only ok, it's the best."

Oswaldo Garcia thought Ali Khan's "Movie Reviews" was "accurate and well written."

Johnny Guzman didn't believe some of Sumon Miah's "Interesting Facts." "My opinion," he wrote, "is that some of them are false."

Angel Morocho wants to congratulate Harpreet Singh for his article "Soccer Scores Big." "I think the article is good and, most important, it interested me."

Germania Collado's article "Boys Bowl Better" impressed Peter Capo. "Being one of the boys on the bowling team, I think Germania covered every aspect of the bowling team," he wrote.

Hubert Jagodzinski wrote in reference to "Sports Eligibility" by Jonathan Sanchez. "There is a mistake in the article. Jonathan Sanchez interviewed me and made a mistake and printed my friend Angel's name instead of mine." We apologize, Hubert. We'll try to make sure problems like that do not happen again.

Ying Ling likes the *Vocational Voice*, but thinks that we "should use a color printer and that would make the students more interested."

S'hamel Lobban wrote in reference to Dennis Hansen's poem "The Real Me." "The writing was beautiful and seems as if the person went very deep into himself to pull out those words," he wrote.

Thanks to all those who took time to write to us. We appreciate the teachers who distribute the newspaper in their classes, and especially Mr. Burke and Mr. Ryan who encouraged their students to write, as well as the students in College Now. Thanks to Ms. Vittor, our principal, and Ms. Radovich-Gonzalez our assistant principal for Humanities, for stopping by to tell us what they thought of the paper.

Readers may contact us at VocVoice@aol.com or by leaving letters in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the Main Office.

Senior Projects & Overworked Seniors = Stress

by Vivian Sanchez

SATs, college applications, and completing academic assignments are quite a load on seniors. On top of that, seniors also have to worry about the independent projects they must complete in music, art, and Spanish.

Many seniors in Queens Voc believe that the independent projects should be assigned in the earlier years of high school. But some administrators believe that "students are not prepared to handle independent projects during their freshmen and sophomore years."

Students should be assigned these independent projects during their sophomore or junior year, or perhaps, these projects can be spread out over those 2 years. All students are capable of completing a research project if the necessary information is distributed. After all, we are in high school.

Senior year consists of numerous activities, assignments, and responsibilities. Adding a series of projects to the load of work that seniors already have is stressful because seniors have difficulty keeping up with such an extensive amount of work.

During the senior year, students are taking SATs, completing college admission applications, applying for scholarships, taking academic courses, and preparing to take Regents exams. Furthermore, many seniors are taking college level classes. The independent projects have become a true burden on seniors.

According to Ms. Vittor, Queens Voc's principal, "Students are more prepared their senior year to complete these projects." That may be so, but senior year is the worst time to get the independent projects. In sophomore or junior year, more time can be dedicated to these projects, and in the senior year students can have more time to do their academic work and be more successful, as they prepare for college or career.

Queens Voc Features

Video Game Reviews

by Leonel Taveras

ESPN NFL 2K5
Genre: Sports
Ratings: Overall 9 out of 10
Presentation: 10
Graphics: 9
Sound: 9
Game play: 9
USRB: Everyone

There has never been a better $20 game than ESPN NFL 2K5.

For the price of a two-week rental, you can buy a football game that is every bit as deep, feature-packed, and playable as Madden 2005. The presentation in the game is great. A sports game has never been this well presented. The graphics and game play are far superior to any other football game that ever came out. Although it has a few frame- rate glitches at times, there's nothing to be concerned about. The sound is good, the commentary is very accurate, the on field sound effects, and on the field music is great. In a competition to outsell Madden 2005, the NFL 2K5 was released three weeks before Madden 2005 was released. The price was also cut down from fifty dollars to twenty dollars, another marketing scheme to outsell Madden 2005. This game is far superior to Madden this year, and is a better buy. Nobody can ask for a better football game, and it is only twenty dollars.

Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas
Genre: Third-Person Action Adventure
Rating: Overall 10 out of 10
Presentation: 10
Graphics: 8
Sound: 9
Game play: 10
USRB: Mature

Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas is the best PS2 game I have ever played.

It's larger than the biggest RPG, it has more adventure than any other adventure game, and has more mini-games than Mario Party. It is bigger and better than any of the previous Grand Theft Auto games. This is a game that will have you playing for a very long time. It has over sixty hours of game play, and even when you beat the main story, you will only be fifty percent done with the game. If you remember what life was like in the 1990s then you will appreciate the amount of work that was put into developing the game. As in the other Grand Theft Auto games, the graphics are not that great, but awesome game play and the number of things you can do outweigh the problems with the graphics. The sound in this game is great, as it has many licensed songs from the 90s in the radio stations. Character dialogue is also great and in depth. The problems from previous Grand Theft Auto games have been fixed. For example, The vehicle physics have been changed so driving feels a lot more realistic, and the overall feel of the game is better. Stealing a car looks better, and when CJ steals a car he says something funny, and he punches or kicks the person, then throws them out of the car.

Need For Speed Underground 2
Genre: Racing
Rating: Overall 8 out of 10
Presentation: 8
Graphics: 8
Sound: 7
Gameplay:9
USRB: Everyone

Any fan of the first game will love this new addition to the series.

The game improves in every part from the first game. The customization mode has a lot more options, the game gives more options when tuning the engine, and it has thousands of ways to customize the look of your vehicle. Another improved part of the game is how your car is rated. Instead of being rated by a five star system, the car is rated by a 10 star system so it is harder to get on covers of magazines. This game also adds SUVs, unlike in part one where there were a limited amount of cars to choose from. Another part of the game that is improved is that you can now own more than one car at the same time. The game has about forty hours of game play, there are a lot of races, and secret garages to discover. A big difference between the two games is that in this one there is a whole world to discover and drive around to look for races, challenges, and garages to upgrade your vehicle. Unlike in the first game where the races are lined up, and you complete them. The game play has been greatly improved, the cars feel more realistic and weighty. You can successfully draft, use NOS, and upgrade them all.

Love is a Rose

by Samira Lesure

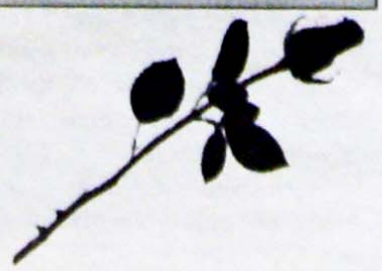
The dew upon the roses
bloom could never compare to
thee, and like that flower's
sweet perfume,
you overpowered me.
But as with each fresh petal's
death,
Its beauty soon must die.
But the memory of its living
breath
the artist can't deny.
Though the rose in sun must
fade,
so would its scent in deepest
shade.

And you the rose in life to me,
must be allowed to grow,
not tethered to the soul of me,
but to the love you long to
know.
For though your beauty long
will live,
your soul must wing
displayed, for 'tis life in you
that I must give,
not stifle or degrade.
For though my soul is
precious meant,
this shade to you , I cast and
sent.

The fragrance and the bloom
unite,
as one, to cast its spell.
In you... your soul and
beauty fight.
This I know too well
and though I long to kiss the
rose,
to inhale its heavens, scent,
a deeper love is what I chose
for losing you I must prevent.
For though the roses beauty
calls,
this the love of us, my heart
befalls.

And your beauty seen in slow
decay,
will lessen not my love for
you. The words my heart and
soul essay
will speak of love... not sad
adieu.
Your inner soul is what I
crave, your fragrance, 'til we
part.
And when carried to my
earthly grave,

Twill be your fragrance in my
heart.
And although the rose I
loved so well,
'Twas your fragrance that my
heart befell.



How to Write a College Essay?

by Sumon Miah

Many private, SUNY, and Honors CUNY colleges often require that students applying for admission write an essay. Essays allow admissions officers to get a better idea of the kind of person applying to their college or university. St. John's University, for example, asks, "What motivates you? We would like to know what activities you enjoy. Do they tie into any career goals? Have you won any awards and honors?"

Taking this college essay as an example, present the essay in a vivid, personal, and persuasive view of the person you are, doing so will make stand out from the other applicants and round out your application.

Writing an effective essay should help you because it is the only part of the application the writer can express his or her true thoughts. The more your essay is reviewed by others, the less likely poor grammar usage or unclear or unfocused sentences will get through.

Here are a few tips while writing the essay.

Tip 1: Make your essay stand out by being original. The more detailed and descriptive the essay is, the more interesting it will sound.

Tip 2: Your essay must stay on the topic. For instance, there are several themes colleges usually seek for student essays. They can range from a personal statement, to an experience, to your opinion on a certain event. Don't change topics.

Tip 3: Don't write a resume. Instead of making your college application essay sound more like a laundry list, provide detailed information about what the admissions office asks.

Tip 4: While explaining your main idea, include facts, events, examples, reasons, and quotations. Use action verbs to avoid sounding dull. For instance, "I love to run." Also, steer clear of exaggeration because the admissions office will notice the pomposity and the obvious thesaurus usage: "With each breathtaking race, I feel as though I have been set free from entrapment," is one example. While keeping the main idea in mind, avoid cliches and predictable thoughts: "I love to help people because I have gotten so much out of life through love, guidance, and family." Give more of a real life experience. For example: "My mom and dad worked long hours to provide me with clothes, shelter, and food. That is why I don't take education for granted. I don't want two jobs that pay minimum wage."

Tip 5: Eliminate unnecessary words. Don't use fifty words to describe or express an idea when ten words will do. For example, "Over the years it has been pointed out to me by my parents, teachers, and friends that I am not the neatest person in the world. I know myself that I am not neat." This sentence can easily be changed to, "I'm a slob."

Tip 6: Have someone read the essay and give feedback on what needs to be improved.

With all these tips in mind, writing a college essay will be easier and less stressful. After finishing the essay, remember to proofread, and have others read it as well. Typos and spelling or grammatical errors will be interpreted as carelessness or worse. Don't rely on the computer's spell check, it can miss spelling errors such as "form" and "from."

Weird But True Facts

compiled by Addison Davis

Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

A crocodile can't stick its tongue out.

More than 50% of the people in the world have never made a phone or received a telephone call.

The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language...try it!

Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

A duck's quack doesn't echo anywhere, and no one knows why.

Most lipstick contains fish scales.

Cat's urine glows under a black light.

Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.

Source:
http://www.expage.com/cclarkesreads2

Places to Visit in NYC

Check out these local attractions

by David Bonilla

Known as the capital of the world, New York City is famous for its many tourist attractions. Yet, some New York City residents have never ventured out to visit these attractions. Some of these attractions are famous around the world, others are not, some are reasonably priced, others are not, but they all share one thing in common, they are worth checking out.

Queens Museum of Art

Admission: $5 adults, $2.50 children and senior citizens.

One of the more reasonably priced art museums in New York, the Queens Museum of Art houses one of the most prized art works in the city, the Panorama of the City of New York. Once the house of the General Assembly of the United Nations after WWII, the Queens Museum is a historical sight in itself. Located in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, the museum is only a short walk away from the Willets Point station on the 7 train. The museum is located near the famous Unisphere.

Statue of Liberty

Ferry Ticket: $10 adults, $8 seniors, $4 children.

A colossal gift from the French, the Statue of Liberty has overlooked this city since 1885. Although located in New Jersey's harbor, New York is a much better home for such a glorious lady. (After all, who cares about New Jersey?) Entrance to the statue is free. Take the 4 or 5 train to Bowling Green Station, walk to Battery Park in Manhattan, then take the ferry from there. A place of such historical value should be visited by everyone.

Transit Museum

Admission: $5 adults, $3 children 3-17, members free.

The largest museum in the United States devoted to public transportation, the Transit Museum is an excellent attraction for tourists and daily commuters. For all of those who take a train or bus every day, the Transit Museum is a good portrayal of public transportation. The museum is located at the corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn Heights.

American Museum of the Moving Image

Admission: $10 adults, $7 seniors and college students, $5 children (5-18)

Located in Astoria, Queens, this museum portrays the art of movies and television. With great displays, screenings, and seminars, this museum will be sure to educate you. Definitely worth a look. It is located on 35th Avenue and 36th Street.

Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum

Admission: $14.50 adults, $10.50 seniors or college students, $2.50-$8 children

Once one of the greatest ships in American history, the Intrepid, which is located on Pier 86 on 12 Avenue and 46 Street in Manhattan, is now a wonderful museum. Both educational and fun, the museum has activities for all ages. The Intrepid has virtual reality activities and artifacts from 9/11.

Rockefeller Center

Admission: Free

Rockefeller Center is a great attraction for New York City residents as well as tourists. Clothing stores, cafes, and an ice-skating rink are among the attractions within Rockefeller Center. Located from 47th to 52nd Street, between 5th and 6th Avenue, in Manhattan, Rockefeller Center is especially attractive during Christmas because of the giant Christmas tree located there.

Alley Pond

Admission: Free

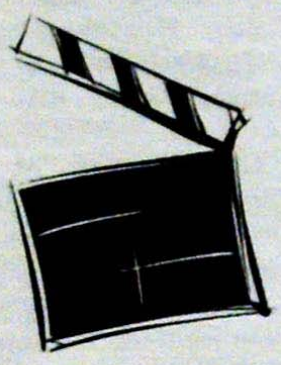
Alley Pond is a wildlife conservation center. Founded in 1972, it was created to teach students about the importance of natural habitats and the animals that inhabit them. Located in Bayside, Queens, 228-06 Northern Boulevard, Alley Pond is a short walk from the Q12, which stops right in front of the one story building. Take the 7 train to Main Street and take the Q12 towards Long Island. Home to a large number of birds and reptiles, this preserved swamp is a different world within New York.

Times Square

Admission: Free

The center of the city, Times Square is a tourist's haven. Almost everyone in Times Square is a tourist. Most trains in the city stop at Times Square, including the 7. Lined with stores, restaurants, laser parks, and huge TV screens, Times Square is one of the most popular places in New York City.

Movie Reviews



by Leonel Taveras

Saw

Starring: Leigh Whannell, Cary Elwes, Danny Glover, Ken Leung, Dina Meyer

Rated: R

My Rating: ☆☆☆

You know how some movies have perfect trailers? Put together in a certain way that you say you have to see the movie when it comes out? And when you see the movie it wasn't really that great? *Saw* is that movie.

Saw is about a madman forcing strangers to play sick games as some form of punishment. A wrist-slashing suicide survivor is forced to dig through a room full of razor wire or else he'll be trapped in the chamber. A drug addict has to chop a key out of a living person's stomach to keep her face from exploding. A doctor finds himself chained in a dirty toilet with a stranger, with a dead body between the two. Mind games ensue, as a series of messages and clues indicate that one will have to kill the other, and perhaps both will be forced to use hacksaws on their own bodies in order to escape. Our killer never kills anyone himself, he simply plans it so they kill themselves during the game.

The problem with *Saw* was that the sick games were spread out throughout the movie as bits and pieces. The thrill and scariness of the movie dies out during the long stretches of time where nothing happens. Wait until the movie comes out on DVD and rent or buy it.

Oceans Twelve

Starring: Brad Pitt, Catherine Zeta-Jones, George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Andy Garcia, Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, Shaobo Qin, Bernie Mac, Don Cheadle, Matt Damon, Carl Reiner, Eddie Jemison, Elliott Gould, Robbie Coltrane, Vincent Cassel, Eddie Izzard, Bruce Willis

Rated: PG-13

My Rating: ☆☆☆

Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and his crew of thieves are back in the sequel to the successful movie *Oceans Eleven*.

Oceans Twelve picks up 3 and half years after the heist in the first movie, with the characters living comfortable with the money they gained from robbing the Bellagio Casino. Danny is married to Tess (Julia Roberts), and they are living in the suburbs, Frank (Bernie Mac) opened up a nail salon. Ending their peace of mind, Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia) finds them all and demands that his money is paid back with interest in two weeks.

To pay back Benedict, the group of thieves comes up with a plan that can get them the hundred million dollars that they have spent in the three and a half years. So they head to Europe, where a series of burglaries takes place so the group can come up with the money to pay back Benedict.

Oceans Twelve is sometimes fun and sometimes funny, but not as fun or funny as *Oceans Eleven*. This movie proves that many times, sequels to successful movies don't turn out to be as good as or better than the first. I would wait for the movie to come out on DVD, but I did not feel that I wasted my money watching it in the theater.

Ratings

☆ Don't waste your time or money

☆☆ Wait for the DVD

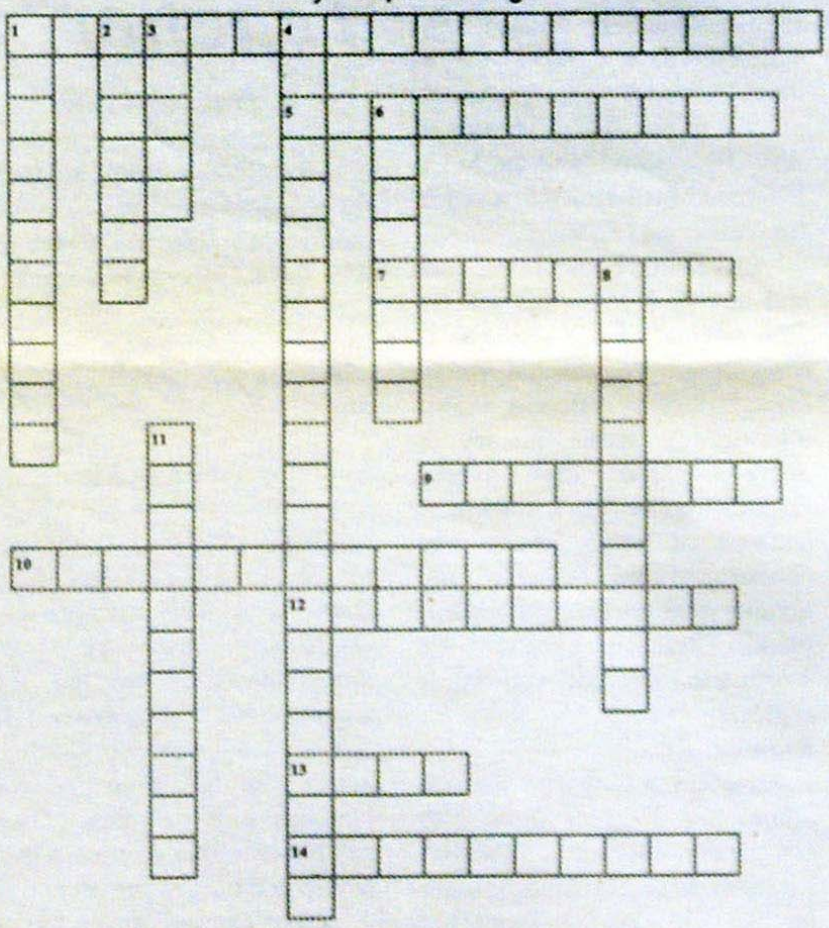
☆☆☆ A movie to take your girlfriend

☆☆☆☆Movie will keep you entertained

☆☆☆☆☆ A must see, you won't regret spending your money

Shop Class Crossword Puzzle

by Harpreet Singh



Across

1. Students in this shop class learn computer repair
5. This shop program is for 9th graders who don't have a permanent shop class
7. Students in this shop class learn the fundamentals of accounting
9. An _____ diploma is awarded upon graduation if all test and requirements are fulfilled of shop class
10. Students in electronics class work on _____ to make electronic devices
12. The principle of _____ is learned in business class
13. A _____ kit is used to hold all the equipment that will be needed for the job
14. Shop classes help students decide what _____ they might want in the future

Down

1. This shop class deals with beauty
2. A_____ is used to see the output of the computer
3. Plumbers deal with _____ on a daily basis
4. This shop class is taught by Mr. Maloney
6. This shop class uses pipes the most
8. This shop class is taught by Mr. Ali
11. Static_____ can damage or even destroy the computer

Music Reviews

by Francisco Fiallos

Linkin Park & Jay-Z- *Collision Course*

Collision Course is what I expected and more, a work of art. Two worlds collide as Linkin Park and Jay-Z joined forces for MTV's Ultimate Mash-Ups. *Collision Course* is a mix of the hit albums from Linkin Park's *Hybrid Theory* and *Meteora* and Jay-Z's *Blueprint*, and *The Black Album*. The album contains six songs which are "Dirt off Your Shoulder/Lying from You," "BigPimpin/Papercut," "Jigga What/Faint," "Numb/Encore," "Points of Authority/99 problems/One Step Closer." The CD includes links to bonus content and exclusive photos from band rehearsal and, as another bonus, the album comes with a DVD with footage from studio recordings, the live concert at the Roxy Theater in West Hollywood, and the MTV Ultimate Mash-Ups that aired in November on MTV.

As a fan of both Linkin Park and Jay-Z, I love this album. The mixing of the cultures is something beautiful, which brought fans of different worlds together as music history is made. The first single, "Numb/Encore," is my favorite because it talks about one chapter of life closing and another one opening. I recommend *Collision Course*; it's worth the time, and you won't regret it. ****

Eminem-*Encore*

Eminem follows up his old album *The Eminem Show* with his new album, *Encore*. Eminem fans expected another hit like *The Eminem Show*, but *Encore* isn't anything *The Eminem Show* was. That doesn't mean that Eminem forgot how to write a rhythm. In *Encore*, Eminem, Slim Shady, or Marshall Mathers, or whatever name you want to call him, talks about fools who fall in love, how the rap game is changing, other rappers attacking his family and how we should not be afraid to exercise our freedom of speech. In "Mosh," Eminem exercises freedom of speech as he lets his fans know how he feels about President Bush and the war in Iraq. "Just lose it" is a fun single in which Eminem makes fun of Pee-Wee Herman, Michael Jackson, Madonna, and even himself. *Encore* also includes a bonus disc with singles "We as Americans," "Love You More," and "Ricky Ticky Toc." *Encore* is worth listening to, but not buying. ***

Vanessa Carlton-*Harmonium*

Harmonium follows up Vanessa Carlton's debut album, *Be Not Nobody*. *Harmonium* takes its name from a vintage instrument which combines piano and flute. Each of *Harmonium's* ingenious tracks is unified by the talents of this unique musician and the purity of her voice. I didn't find the album interesting, it was too much about her life and all the trials and tribulations she encountered to achieve her success. But I liked that it also has some romantic tracks that talk about how it feels to be in love. **

Rating Scale

****	What are you waiting for, go buy it now
***	Borrow it from a friend
**	That's why radios were invented
*	Save your money for something better

Who's the Teacher?

by Francisco Fiallos

Like Queens Voc's students, the teachers are diverse, unique individuals. Can you figure out who these Queens Voc teachers are?

This math teacher graduated high school in her native country, the Philippines. When she came to the United States, she attended Brooklyn College. She is a graduate of New York Institute of Technology, with a master's degree in Instructional Technology, and is currently attending Touro College for her master's in Administration and Super-vision. She teaches College Now Workshop Math and can help you with any math question you may have.

This graduate of Grover Cleveland High School attended St. John's University for a year and later transferred to Auburn University in Alabama. With his team, the Long Island Ruff Riders, this pro soccer player, has won two national titles in 1995 and 2002. He coached for a youth soccer league and the transition to teaching came naturally to him. He hopes to become an Athletic Director or AP of Physical Education. You can always find this dean patrolling the floors.

[Answers: Ms. Erkins, Mr. Cadet]

Love. Angel. Music. Baby

by Vivian Sanchez

Gwen Stefani's new solo album called *Love.Angel.Music.Baby* is a step towards new rhythmic discovery and independence. As the lead singer and songwriter for Grammy winners No Doubt, a group that has produced four platinum-plus albums, Gwen has become one of rock's most iconic and unique females.

Gwen worked with a variety of musicians and producers who were into everything from new wave to hip-hop. The result was an album that contained rhythmic, rebellious, confessional, sexy, fierce, playful, emotional, funky, heavy and melodic.

Gwen worked with Dr. Dre, The Neptunes, Andre 3000, Linda Perry, New Order, Nellee Hooper, Wendy & Lisa, and Jimmy Jam, and Terry Lewis. This is one of the many reasons the album is so unique and adventurous.

Going solo with *Love.Angel.Music.Baby* was a clever choice. Now Gwen can truly show the world what makes her unique and such an amazing artist. Gwen Stefani's voice on this album is astounding. *Love.Angel.Music.Baby* was one of the best albums I have ever listened to. The tunes are addicting and difficult to get out of your head. *****

by Francisco Fiallos

Gwen Stefani - *Love. Angel. Music. Baby*

We know Gwen Stefani as the cute punk rock lead singer of No Doubt. This year, Gwen Stefani makes here solo debut with her album *Love. Angel. Music. Baby* and her hit single "What You Waiting For." After 15 years of rocking together, No Doubt decided to take a break after the release of their greatest hits album. The songs capture the conflicted feelings that she has kept within herself for many years. The sounds are sweet, slow, piano melody. The lyrics pay tribute to her band mates in No Doubt. I enjoyed the album because it has all the elements Gwen brings to the table: rock, sweetness, and fun. It was all I expected from Gwen Stefani and she rocked as only she can. She did a great job with *Love. Angel. Music. Baby* and it's worth going out to buy. ****

Want to review an album for the Voc Voice, email us at VocVoice@aol.com

Sophomore

by Daryl Villavicencio

In this edition of the *Vocational Voice*, we highlight sophomore students who are outstanding in their shop or business classes, as selected by their teacher. The following questions were asked to students:

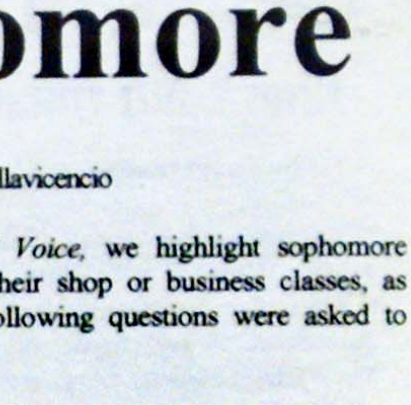
1. Why did you choose this shop class?
2. Do you have any regrets?
3. Do you plan to continue this field after high school?
4. Why do you think you teacher selected you?

Business

Dairis Jimenez and Jerry Chang were selected by their business teacher Ms. Siegel. "Dairis has exceeded her classmates in speed, accuracy and is often the person others turn to for extra help." Jerry "has overcome a major physical ability and is faster and more accurate than many other students," said Ms. Siegel.

Dairis Jimenez

1. I chose this shop class because I am interested in working in business in the future.
2. No, I do not have any regrets about picking this shop, I am proud that I chose this one.
3. Yes, I plan on working in this field. I find it to be very interesting.
4. I think my teacher selected me because I am a hard worker and I will keep working until I get it right.



Jerry Chang

1. I think business is a good shop for me; I like the challenges that come along the way.
2. No, I have no regrets because I enjoy every aspect of business.
3. Yes, because in the future I plan to major in the accounting.
4. I think the Ms. Siegel selected me because I am hard working and very responsible when it comes to my work.

Computer Technology

Raiza Izquierdo and Angel Fung were selected by their computer technology teacher Mr. Stigliano. "Raiza and Angel are both mature for their age and very serious about their work," Mr. Stigliano said.

Raiza Izquierdo

1. I didn't actually pick this shop class they just put me here. It's not that bad because the teacher helps me.
2. No, I don't have any regrets. I started to like fixing computers.
3. No, I do not plan to continue this field. It's something that I can fall back on in future.
4. I think he selected me because I do all my work and I am a very responsible person.

Angel Fung

1. I chose this shop class because I'm interested in computers and I enjoy learning about them.
2. I have no regrets joining this shop because I love what I am doing.
3. Yes, I do want to continue this field and become a computer technician.
4. I think my teacher selected me because I always put effort into my work.

Shop Profiles

Cosmetology

Nachelle Cobri was selected by their Cosmetology teacher Ms. Basirico. "Nachelle works to her ability and tries to be successful," said Ms. Basirico

Nachelle Colin

1. I chose this shop class because when I finish high school, I can work, so I can pay my college tuition.

2. No, because I know this can be very useful and I like this profession.
3. Yes, I would like to continue cosmetology after high school, so I can pay my college tuition to be a doctor.
4. I think my teacher selected me because I am a quick learner and highly motivated.

Electronics

Alexander Tenf and Aurelio Stirling were both selected by their electronics teacher Mr. Ali. "Alex applies himself with initiative and hard work," and Aurelio "tries very hard to understand and apply what he is learning," Mr. Ali said.

Alexander Tenf

1. I chose this shop class because EI was packed, I don't see myself working in plumbing everyday, and computer tech didn't accept me, so electronics was my last option.
2. At first, I didn't like electronics, but I'll start liking it when we start doing some work like building robots or something, or whatever will get me some money in the future. I have no regrets yet.

3. After high school I'll probably do something else. I don't know what yet, but if I can't get an electronics job I'll be prepared for something else.
4. I think the teacher selected me because I pass his tests and he sees that I do his work.

Aurelio Stirling

1. I chose this class because I wanted to be the best in something. EI was not my thing and plumbing is way too filthy for me to work in.

2. I have no regrets because I am doing well in this major.
3. Yes, I do plan to continue this field after high school because it pays very well.
4. I think the teacher selected me because I show a lot of promise in this class.

Electrical Installation

Alan Casallas and Eric Bissell were selected by their EI teacher Mr. Mendez. "These students are ahead on completed jobs as well as passing all their exams with high marks and both received 95 on their second marking period report card," said Mr. Mendez

Alan Casallas

1. I chose this shop class because I liked the idea of working with electricity. I had always thought electricity was cool, so I entered EI.

2. I have no regrets. I enjoy the hands-on aspects of the shop and have heard of how other students think their shop is boring because it is pure typing or writing.
3. Yes, I plan to work in the electrical field.
4. I think Mr. Mendez chose me because I am ahead of others in terms of the number of jobs I've done.

Eric Bissell

1. I chose this shop class because I was interested in the work that I have to do.
2. I do not regret joining this shop because I enjoy the hands-on experience.
3. When I get out of high school I do plan continue in this field.
4. I think the teacher selected me because I know what I am doing.

Plumbing

Jacqueline Isaza and Humberto Batista were selected by their plumbing teacher Mr. McCarthy. "These two students work to their ability. They work hard on each job they do. They give it 100%. That's all I want and ask for," said Mr. McCarthy.

Jacqueline Isaza

1. I chose this shop because it was one of the easiest shops and it looked like fun.
2. No, because I have a lot of fun and I have a great teacher.
3. If I go to college, I don't think I will continue this field. If I don't go to college I will continue this field.
4. I think the teacher selected me because I work really hard in this shop.

Humberto Batista

1. I chose this shop because I want to become a plumber.
2. No, I don't have any regrets because I have a good teacher and that's what I want in my future.
3. Yes, I do plan to continue this field after high school as plumber.
4. I think he selected me because I am a hard worker.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Vega on the birth of their newborn baby Jada-Rose!

Sumon's Recipe

by Sumon Miah

Samosa

Samosa is one of the most well known appetizers from South Asia. This recipe has been passed from many generations and is still the core appetizers for South Asian homes, restaurants, and families.
Start to finish: 20-25 minutes

Ingredients:

1/2 cup boiled and drained peas
1 1/2 tsp. cumin seeds
1 tsp. mango powder
1 tsp. red chili powder
1/2 tsp. fennel powder
1/2 tsp. garam masala powder
1 tbsp. chopped cashew powder
1 tbsp. butter or oil for cooking
3 all purpose flour
1/2 cup of all purpose flour for rolling out
1 tbsp. heated butter or oil to add to the dough
Oil for deep frying the samosa
Salt according to taste

Directions:

Step 1: Heat the butter for the stuffing and add the cumin seeds and cashew nuts.
Step 2: When the seeds boil, add the dry powders and fry for 10 seconds.
Step 3: Add the mashed potatoes and green peas. Then salt and mix well.
Step 4: Cook on a low flame for about 10 minutes. Keep it aside.
Step 5: Prepare the cover for the samosa by combining the flour, hot butter, oil, and salt.
Step 6: Add enough water and mold the dough. Set aside for about 10 minutes.
Step 7: Divide the dough into round portions. Take each portion and coat it with some flour, so that it does not stick to your hands.
Step 8: Roll it into a not too thin perfect round. With a pizza cutter, make 2 semi-circles of that round.
Step 9: Take one half circle. Dip your index finger into the cold water and apply it to the straight edge of the semi-circle. Now hold the semi-circle in your hand.
Step 10: Fold the straight edge, bringing together the watered edges. Seal the watered edges. You will now have a small triangular flour pocket.
Step 11: Stuff it with the potato mixture and now water seal the upper edges. Repeat for the rest of the dough.
Step 12: Deep fry in until it is golden brown and serve hot.

Horoscopes

by Sandy Rodriguez

Capricorn
(December 22-January 19)
There are mountains and rivers interfering with your goal. Take the risk and climb the mountain. Get to your goal. You have the strength and mind to do it. Go for it.

Aquarius
(January 20-February 19)
The same way the water flows in the river, your ideas are flowing too. Don't lose site of these ideas. Continue to accomplish your goal and the rewards will come at the end.

Pisces
(February 20-March 20)
The stars await, you will meet new friends of the opposite sex, don't mess up this opportunity. Go for it. You're sexy and talented; enjoy life.

Aries
(March 21-April 19)
There is one thing on your mind. And it's stopping you from working. Have this thing in mind but do what needs to be done as well. You can handle it; you're a strong one.

Taurus
(April 20-May 20)
Maybe your grade is on your mind. Just do the work that has to be done, don't do the work for the grade. The grade will reflect the work you put in.

Gemini
(May 21-June 20)
Meeting up with old friends wouldn't hurt. Have fun and talk about the past. You might just meet up with an old crush and the feelings will come back. You might just find your new lover.

Cancer
(June 21-July 22)
Your good heart will lead others to be more giving. Continue to help others but don't forget about your own problems. See Leo to assist you on those problems.

Leo
(July 23-August 22)
Just like the lion you are powerful. Your words mean a lot. Watch what you say, your words can have a lot of influence on others.

Virgo
(August 23-September 22)
Work is piling up and it needs to be done. Stop being lazy and start working. The work that is piling up will just lead to more stress, which you don't need right now.

Libra
(September 23-October 23)
At the current stage, you're not happy. Look forward to things and you might find happiness. Take chances; take risks. Go on an adventure.

Scorpio
(October 24-November 22)
There is a fake smile on your face. On top of all your problems, you are also confused. Make up your mind as soon as possible. The sooner you make up your mind the sooner you will be happy.

Sagittarius
(November 23-December 23)
Don't do things to please others or to fit in. Troubles in your life shouldn't affect the way you act. Be yourself, you are a good-hearted person. Continue to treat others the way you would like to be treated and you will fit in.

What's New in Technology?

by Matthew Bermudez

Technology is an ever-changing aspect of life. It advances from year to year, and dramatically in most cases.

Apple's iPod

Apple has three variations of the iPod, each appealing to different user needs.

The regular iPod, which comes in either a $299 20GB (5,000 songs, each song with 128-kbps, 4 minute, and MP3 file standards) or a $399 40GB (10,000 songs) models, each with a 2-inch grayscale LCD backlit screen and has 12-hour battery life. The iPod uses iTunes for Mac and Windows. The ease of use and features in this device render it an outstanding buy. The iPod even doubles as a portable hard drive, so students can save their homework on it.

The iPod mini comes in a $249 4GB (1,000 songs) model, has a 1.67-inch grayscale LCD backlit screen, 8-hour battery life, and also uses iTunes for Mac and Windows. Despite the smaller size in comparison to the 20GB and 40GB iPod, the iPod mini has all the same features: a calendar, an address book, an alarm clock, can hold text notes (shopping lists and direction), and has games (solitaire, music quiz, bricks, and parachute). The iPod mini is noticeably smaller in size in comparison to the regular iPod.

The iPod photo comes in either a $499 40GB (10,000 songs), or a $599 60GB (15,000 songs) models, both of which have a 2-inch 65,536-color LCD screen with LED backlight, and hold up to 25,000 photos. The iPod photo has a 15-hour battery life and 5 hours of slideshows with music. It uses iPhoto for Mac or either Adobe Album 2.0 or Adobe Elements 3.0 for Windows. In addition to displaying the album name, artist name, and song title, as the previous iPods do, the iPod photo will also show the album cover. The picture gallery it displays 25 pictures, which can be displayed full screen upon selecting them.

The following are some other technological advances.

Intec Wireless Racing Wheel

This racing wheel has a 2.4GHz signal, allowing it to have a range of 30 feet. The analog steering and pedals give you a better racing feel. $70 at inteclink.com.

Texas Instruments TI-84 Plus Silver Edition

This graphics calculator has a data-shuttling USB jack which allows you to link up with other calculators and even transfer data to a computer. $130 at education.ti.com.

Archos AV420

This video jukebox has a 20GB hard drive, and can record video directly from your TV cable box, or satellite. With the Yahoo program guide, you can set up a recording schedule for recording. It has a 3.5-inch LCD screen.
$550 at archos.com.

Philips SBCHD1500

These wireless, stereo, surround sound headphones transmit waves that are higher in frequency than radio waves, so they travel through walls, in a 165-foot radius. They support Dolby Digital and DTS. $600 at Philips.com.

Brinks Touch and Open Fire Safe

This security safe box has a biometric lock which recognizes up to 10 fingerprints. It also works with a PIN. This safe survives one hour in 1,700 degree F.
$400 at siscoproducts.com.

Koncept Smart Shutter

This "shock-stopping" duplex outlet has shutters that protect the socket openings. The shutters open only when both plug blades are inserted simultaneously. $3 an outlet at konceptech.com.

Rowenta Jasper Morrison Toaster

This toaster makes a perfectly toasted piece of bread every time. It has optical sensors inside which monitor and gauge the color of the bread, to make sure it doesn't burn. It also has motorized mechanisms to ensure the bread doesn't become airborne upon completion.
$135 at rowantausa.com.

Anamaniacs

Dear Anamaniacs,

I really like this girl in school. I've known her since last year but I can't do anything about it. You see, she has a boyfriend and I have a girlfriend. I don't want to interfere with or jeopardize their relationship, nor do I want to hurt my girlfriend. My friends pressure me to go for it, but I just can't break up a couple. Besides, I'm not even sure she even wants to be more than just friends. To be honest, I don't really need any advice, I'm just writing this letter in high hopes that she reads this and knows how I feel about her. I don't mind if she just wants to stay friends (but it doesn't mean I'll stop trying), all I just want for her to know I like her.

Hero

Dear Hero,

It seems as though you really like this girl, and it's nice that you care so deeply about her that you wouldn't want to jeopardize two relationships. Maybe, she will see this and realize how you truly feel about her. Who knows, she might feel the same way as you and doesn't want to jeopardize your relationship. Even though you said you didn't want any advice, we just want to tell you good luck and to just follow your heart.

Anamaniacs

Dear Anamaniacs,

I have a problem. My best friend is going out with this really cute girl, and lately I started having feelings for her. I don't really know what to do since I can't tell him I like his girl because it will ruin our friendship. But I also feel as though I'm giving up on something I want for myself. This is pulling me apart, I like this girl, but I have been best friends with this kid for years. Now every time we are hanging out, his girl is around and I don't think I can handle it. Please help me!

Burger

Dear Burger,

We understand the situation you're in, and it must be really difficult for you to manage being around your best friend and his girl. We advise you to figure out whether this girl is really worth risking your friendship with your best friend. Take some time to yourself, and see if your feelings for this girl change. We think it will be best to talk to your best friend, and try telling him how you feel about this situation. This doesn't mean he will leave his girl. Sometimes life doesn't go the way you'd like it to go.

Anamaniacs

Dear Anamaniacs,

I went out with this guy for a year and a half. Throughout the relationship he lied to me a lot, although they were white lies. During the summer, we went on a break and we couldn't stand not being together, so we started going out again, but by the end of the summer we broke up officially because he did something really wrong. I felt very disrespected by his actions. Around Thanksgiving, he called me and told me that he still had feelings for me. I don't know how to respond to this. Can you please advise me?

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

It seems as though you had quite a history with this guy. But lying throughout the relationship was just wrong, even if they were "white lies." A relationship should always be based on honesty, from both sides. If he was not doing that, then you have to think about whether or not he was taking you seriously, You have to figure out whether or not you still have feelings for this guy, and if you do, and think it is worth giving him another chance, then you should. After all your happiness is what counts, and if he is it, then nothing should stop you.

Anamaniacs

Having problems?
Don't know what to do?
Ask the
ANAMANIACS

Letters can be placed in the box on the counter in the Main Office

What Do Students Know?

by Harpreet Singh

What do students really know about New York? In this edition of the *Vocational Voice*, students were asked questions about New York. See what you really know. *Italics* denotes wrong answers.

1. What country gave us the Statue of Liberty?
2. MSG stands for what place in New York City?
3. Name the largest park in New York City.
4. How many professional male New York State teams are there in total in basketball, hockey, football, and baseball?
5. What is the capital of New York State?
6. What is the longest running newspaper in New York City?
7. What is the longest river in New York?

Freshman-David Bermudez
1. France
2. Madison Square Garden
3. *Central Park*
4. *6 teams*
5. Albany
6. *Daily News*
7. Hudson River

Freshman-Suzy Cernuda
1. *I don't know*
2. *Messages*
3. *Central Park*
4. 6 *teams*
5. Albany
6. *Daily News*
7. Hudson River

Sophomore-Allan Casallas
1. France
2. *Money Saving Grocery*
3 Central Park
4. *6 teams*
5. Albany
6. New York Post
7. Hudson River

Sophomore-Stephanie Valerio
1. France
2. *I don't know*
3. *Central Park*
4. *I don't know*
5. Albany
6. *Newsday*
7. *I don't know*

Junior-Reid Samedi
1. *Germany*
2. Madison Square Garden
3. *Central Park*
4. 7 teams
5. *New York State*
6. *Newsday*
7. Hudson River

Junior-Pleasant Powell
1. France
2. *I don't know*
3. *Central Park*
4. *5 teams*
5. Albany
6. *Daily News*
7. *Oregon*

Senior-Augusto Santana
1. France
2. Madison Square Garden
3. *Central Park*
4. *6 teams*
5. Albany
6. *The New York Times*
7. Hudson River

Senior-Sherry Hernandez
1. France
2. *I don't know*
3. *Central Park*
4. *3 teams*
5. Albany
6. *The New York Times*
7. Hudson River

Shop Class Word Search

by Lillian Nieves

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

ASSETS
CHIP
DIODES
EXPENSES
HAIRCUT
PERM
RESISTORS
SWITCHBOARDS
WAXING
CABLING
CIRCUITS
HARD DRIVE
FAUCET
MOTHERBOARD
PIPES
REVENUE
VALVES
WIRES

New SAT for College Bound

by Sumon Miah

The class of 2006 will be the first to take the new SAT for college admissions. The SAT is changing this March, with the addition of an essay part.

Students will be asked to write an essay that requires them to take a position on an issue and use reasoning and examples to support their position.

Collegeboard.com reports that the purpose of the SAT is to evaluate student reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed by the student in school. But it will add to the test a subjective portion, requiring a subjective evaluation.

The new SAT will more closely align the test with current curriculum and institutional practices in high school and college, according to CollegeBoard.com.

Further, the new SAT will help colleges make better decisions about admission and placement decisions, they say, claiming that research shows that a student's ability to write a first draft of a timed essay reflects the student's ability to perform successfully in college courses that require writing.

Students should start to prepare for the new SAT, which will consist of an essay, shorter reading passages, and the current long reading passages and sentence completion sections.

The math section will eliminate quantitative comparisons and will include topics from third-year college-preparatory math, such as exponential growth, absolute value, functional notation, linear functions, manipulations with exponents, and properties of tangent lines.

Announcing
Queens Voc's
Black History Festival

Friday, February 18
4:30-7:30pm
Auditorium

There will be dancing, singing, poetry reading, and monologues.

To participate, contact Mr. Cadet, Ms. Himmel, or Ms. Roberson

Inquiring Photographer

compiled by Jonathan Sanchez

The world has many exotic places that are visited by millions of people every year. Many of these places are romantic, wild, fun, and scary. We asked some students, "If you could go anywhere in the word, where would you go and why?"

Joel Plasencia
Freshman
"To Hawaii because I would like to take a break from the city and also enjoy the beautiful beaches that this island has."

Bryan Llorente
Junior
"Australia, because it's a beautiful place, it's really relaxing and the food is great. It also has a nice weather."

Eva Jimenez
Freshman
"I would go to Italy because this country has many places to visit and also has a beautiful colonial architecture."

Jackie Rodriguez
Junior
"I would go to Dominican Republic because it's one of the best Caribbean islands to visit, has beautiful beaches and the weather is really nice."

Andres Felipe Arcila
Sophomore
"I would go to Colombia because it has many interesting places that you can visit and it also brings me a lot of good old memories."

Giovanni Cano
Senior
"I would like to go to Italy because it's a beautifi country with a lot of history."

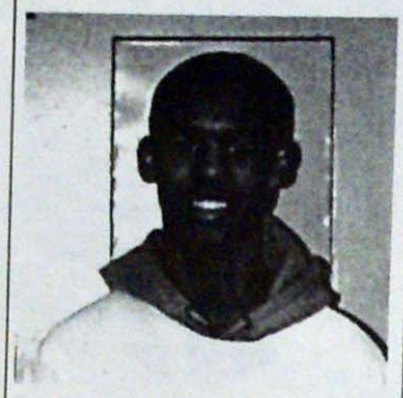
Karen Diaz
Sophomore
"To Puerto Rico because it has many beautiful places in which you can connect with nature, relax, and have fun."

Ambar Marrero
Senior
"I would like to go to Egypt because I want to see the Pyramids and also be able to travel in the desert on a camel."

Senior Sports Profiles

by Syeda Ali

Armando Contreras



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

"Armando is an all around great athlete. He plays team basketball, but still has the athletic ability and knowledge to score over 17 points a game." -Ildi Telegrafi

"Armando is the most complete player I have coached in several years. He has the most potential to be a star player." -Mr. Maloney

Yurly Olivares

Age: 17
Team: Girls' Bowling
Position: A-Team
Years on Team: 2

"Yurly has been a most definite, encouraging team-mate, which motivates every-one to do their best at the game."
-Stephanie Fernandez

"One of our team leaders, most valuable player, and a very dedicated bowler."
- Mr. Garofano

Angelica Lopez

Age: 17
Team: Girls' Bowling
Position: B-Team
Years on Team: 1

"Angelica always tried her hardest to do her best, and was very committed to the game." - Ambar Marrero

"As a first year player she showed a lot of heart and dedication." - Mr. Garofano

Donald Gray

Age: 17
Team: Boys' Bowling
Position: B-Team
Years on Team: 4

"Donald is very supportive of the team and has great team spirit." - Giovanni Cano

"I could always count on him being there for his teammates. He's a very consistent bowler, and we can utilize him in many situations."
- Mr. Devaux

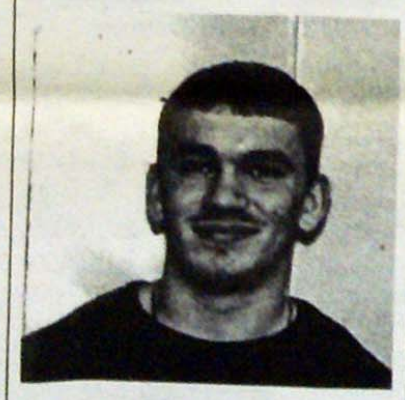
Adiyasa Kurniadi

Age: 17
Team: Soccer
Position: Defense
Years on Team: 1

"Adiyasa is there for every game and very good supporter of the team and is there when called upon." - Mr. Ali

"Adiyasa was there for all the games and practices. He always tried his best to help the team. He is very energetic and gave the team more energy." - Nedzad Hodzic

Sait Palijevic



Age: 17
Team: Soccer
Position: Defense
Years on Team: 2

"Sait is a very dedicated player on and off the field. He is a positive influence to every player on the team."
- Allen Salazar

"Sait is a very good defense player and depend-able." - Mr. Ali

Stephen Papadimitriou

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

"Stephen is very energetic and supportive of the team."
- Peter Capo

"He's a great team player always enthusiastic and motivational and a veteran player who was good under pressure." - Mr. Devaux

Harpreet Singh

Age: 17
Team: Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on Team: 3

"Harpreet's a good player and tries his hardest to do the best." -David Bermudez

"Harpreet has improved his game every year and should be a vital player for the basketball team."
- Mr. Maloney

Vocational Voice salutes Jesse Quimi, Frank Lin, and Frank Herrera, 2004 Queens Voc graduates, who currently serve in the United States Marine Corps.

Handball Team Determined to Win

by Michael Saldarriaga

After finishing the season with a 5-5 record last year, Coach Maloney has nothing but high expectations for this year's handball team.

According to Coach Maloney, this year's team will be ready to compete and make the playoffs. Entering his 7th year as coach of the boys' varsity handball team, Coach Maloney said he expects all of his veteran players to come back for next season. These players include: Matthew Bermudez, Raymond Chiu, Marvin Cordero, Nedzed Hodzic, William Huazcho, Christopher Hyland, Sait Paljevic, and Allen Salazar.

"I want to put together a team that will be dedicated, play hard, and have fun," said Coach Maloney. He believes this will come through hard work and dedication from the players. Allen Salazar, the handball team's first singles player and last year's Most Valuable Player, says that the outcome of the team's season will "reflect on the team practicing consistently." "I will encourage players to practice early for the season and I will contribute to the team by setting up practices here and there," he said. "I believe that failing to make the playoffs is not an option," he added. 2-year veteran Nedzed agrees with Allen. "I think this year's team will finish high in the standings," he said.

The handball season starts in the middle of March and tryouts for the team will be held two weeks before the starting date. Many students are expected to try-out this year. "Handball is becoming such a popular sport, I'm happy to see people wanting to try-out," said 3-year veteran Marvin Cordero. Veteran William Huazcho is also looking forward to the upcoming handball season and expects to see "lots of competitiveness" at tryouts.

"People that show interest in the game, perform well at tryouts, and are able to keep up their grades will surely be considered to join the handball team," said Coach Maloney. Girls are also expected to tryout this year, for the first time since Charleen Cameron played for the team three years ago. Sophomore Jessica Felix wants to try-out because "I want to see how I match up to the guys, and to me, handball is a lot of fun."

As the season approaches, handball players are excited and are working hard to keep their grades up in order to join the team. "I'm going to class everyday and doing well on tests so I can be able to play," said William.

"If we work hard and improve our skills, and we don't fool around when it comes to game time, we definitely have a chance to make the playoffs this year," said Coach Maloney.

Basketball Team

Gears up

continued from back page

abilities. We compensate by adjusting our defense to contain the offensive variations," Matt said.

Ildi Telegrafi, 2-year veteran, sees that the performance of the team has improved from the beginning of the season. "Our increased competitiveness and better understanding of the game of basketball has helped improve the performance of the team," Ildi said. Harpreet Singh, 3-year veteran, believes he has improved his individual performance on the court. "I find ways to receive the ball on the court so I could position myself to shoot the ball," Harpreet said.

Matt expects the team to continue to have a successful season. "The team is working hard and playing more intense basketball," he said. Jainer

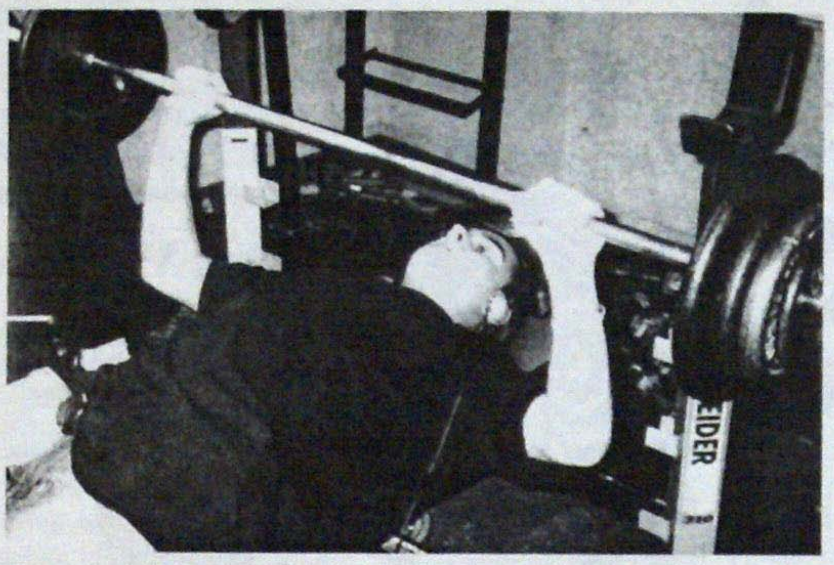
"The team is working hard and playing more intense basketball," said captain Matthew Bermudez.

Villafane, a 2-year veteran, is fulfilling his own expectations as a player on the team "by scoring, rebounding, and defending the opponent," said Jainer.

All home games that are scheduled for Aviation start at 6pm, instead of the usual 4pm PSAL start time so that Aviation's basketball team can practice. "I understand Aviation's concern for their team missing practice time. Playing the games at 6pm is hardly an inconvenience for our team. We are thankful to Aviation for allowing us to use their facilities for the past several years," said Coach Maloney.

Matthew Bermudez leads the team in scoring with 13.17 points per game. Reid Samedi leads the team in rebounding with 8.17 rebounds per game. Ildi Telegrafi leads the team in assists with 4.17 assists per game. [Note: The scoring, rebounding, and assists leaders are updated through January 7 because of publication deadline.]

Goooooooo Tigers!!!



"Weight" 'til we get a new gym.

No Gym, No Problem! Students in Gymlettes Hard at Work

by Johnathan Pena-Bonilla

Gym activities have changed since June 2003, when students were able to play and exercise in the schoolyard. But when students returned to Queens Voc in September 2003, their new gyms, referred to as "gymlettes," were small and overcrowded.

Weight lifting, volleyball, and fitness exercise are the three common activities that take place in the gymlettes. "The fitness exercise is stretching and warm ups, a required exercise before any weightlifting or volleyball activity is done," said Mr. Gorman, the assistant principal of the Math, Science, and Physical Education department.

"The kind of activities I do in my gym class are volleyball, flexible exercise, push ups, dips, jumping jacks, sit-ups, and leg raises," said Mr. Lerro, a physical education teacher and dean.

Yet, not all students believe the gyms are working out well. "There is no point in doing these activities in gym," said Ting Lin, a senior in

"Students need to exercise for personal health," said Mr. Lerro

cosmetology. "First, the gym is small and gets overcrowded and second, teachers pressure you in doing these activities," she added.

Mr. Lerro sees teacher pressure as necessary "because students need to exercise for personal health," he said.

"The point of these activities is for students to be active and fit," said Ms. Bloom, a veteran physical education teacher at Queens Voc. "Students gain necessary knowledge to maintain physically fit and healthy," Ms. Bloom added.

"Students who do not participate in these activities, can receive a failing grade in gym class," said Mr. Devaux. "I try to make the activities fun. Most students get involved in doing these activities," Mr. Devaux added.

"Once the new building finished, students will have a weight room were weight lifting/training will continue," said Mr. Boyle, another physical education teacher. "The weight room will not be in the gym, but it's going to be connected to the gym. Fitness exercise and volleyball will also continue. Other activities that will be added include volleyball, basketball, baseball, and European handball," Mr. Boyle added.

MLB News

New York Dominates the Baseball World

by Sandy Rodriguez & Daryl Villavicencio

On a day when the Mets and Yankees combined for a news conference doubleheader, baseball dominated the New York sports scene.

In the morning at Shea Stadium, the Mets announced their $119 million, seven-year contract with center fielder Carlos Beltran, the 10th deal in baseball history worth $100 million or more. The new-look Mets already have added three-time Cy Young pitching award winner Pedro Martinez.

Three hours later, the Yankees introduced Johnson, a five-time Cy Young Award winner, after acquiring him from Arizona for Vazquez, Navarro, pitcher Brad Halsey and $9 million. The Big Unit, who got a $32 million, two-year contract extension through 2007, quickly apologized for getting into a sidewalk confrontation with a television cameraman en route to his physical the previous day.

Arizona then dealt Navarro and right-handers William Juarez, Danny Muegge and Beltran Perez to Los Angeles for Green and $10 million.

Arizona planned more moves. The Diamondbacks agreed with left-hander Shawn Estes on a $2.5 million, one-year contract and traded Shea Hillenbrand to the Toronto Blue Jays.

After shedding Green, Los Angeles finalized its $36 million, four-year contract with right-hander Derek Lowe, the winner for Boston in the final game of all three of its postseason series as the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years.

Juan Gonzalez, a two-time American League most valuable player with Texas, finalized a minor league contract with Cleveland. The 35-year-old outfielder has 434 homers but played in just 33 games last year with Kansas City, batting .276 with five homers and 17 RBIs.

Baseball Team Getting Ready for Upcoming Season

by Amber Kaur

The tryouts are over, and the varsity baseball team has begun preparing for the upcoming season. They are currently working out once a week until their season officially begins in March. After March, it becomes six days a week with intense workouts.

The boys get together once a week, after school, to do "running, push-ups, sit-ups, and light work with weights," said the coach, Mr. Schimenz, who has been meeting weekly with his team. The boys have been going to the batting cages as well. "We are doing well as a team. We practice together, go to the batting cages, and we are a big happy family," said Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu, a 4-year and one of the team's leaders.

Coach Schimenz and the team leaders look forward to a great year. They observed the rookies throughout tryouts. "They are serious. They show a lot of dedication by coming to practices," said Fernando Nunez, a 4-year veteran and another of the team's leaders. Giovanni Cano and Gary Hernandez, senior rookies, plan to show their commitment and skills during their first and last year on the team. "The boys are giving me positive feedback. They help us out and want us to do our best," said Giovanni. Gary agrees. "The team gives us a lot of support and they are there when we need them," he said.

"The team leaders and I have observed the rookies not just skill-wise. Like veterans, they have to become more focused in school," said Sandy Rodriguez, a 3-year veteran.

The main priority for the boys is to pass their classes. "School comes first, then baseball," said Mr. Schimenz. He viewed the boys' report cards and was impressed with most of the players. "I need 110% dedication in school as well in baseball," he said, "but if the boy's aren't passing their classes, then we need to make cuts."

"We are doing well as a team. We practice together, go to the batting cages, and we are a big family," said Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu.

In addition to weekly meetings, the coach produces monthly newsletters that he distributes to the team. The last issue shows the players selected for the junior varsity and varsity teams. It also lists the upcoming activities, thanks the boys who participated in the Annual Fall Cleanup Day at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on October 16, and includes letters from Coach Garofano, as well as from Coach Schimenz.

This year, the varsity baseball team is in Queens B North. Their competitors are: Renaissance, Robert F. Wagner, Robert F. Kennedy, Townsend Harris, Arts & Business, Thomas Edison, and Frank Sinatra high schools.

Working out early for a long upcoming season.

TIGERS

Basketball Team Gears up for Playoffs

by Joseph LiVecchi

The Queens Voc Tigers varsity basketball team began their season by winning four out of their first eight league games. The four wins include defeating Renaissance twice, and Frank Sinatra and Newcomers once each. The two losses were to Wagner and American Studies, and Newcomers. With a record of 4 wins and 4 losses, as of January 9, the season is a success so far, and reaching the playoffs seems promising.

The team consists of 13 players, including 11 veterans and 2 rookies. The players include veterans Matthew Bermudez, Jason Brunder, Armando Contreras, Vional Joseph, Timothy Perez, Euri Rojas, Reid Samedi, Harpreet Singh, Ildi Telegrafi, Jainer Villafane, and rookies David Bermudez, and Rafael Valverde.

The players see practice as a reason for their success this season. "Practices were chances for the team to know each other as players so we could develop team chemistry. We took control of the game by running set plays that we practiced, and it was a success on the court because it resulted in a win," said Armando Contreras, a 2-year veteran and co-captain of the team. Rafael Valverde, an 11th grade rookie, also believes practice is a reason for their success. "It gives us a chance to maximize the efficiency of our plays. It also prepares us for the intensity of a league game," said Rafael.

Captain goes for three.

Another reason for the success of the team is that they are playing "team basketball." "The team is progressing well. We are learning how to play well as a team. Also, we are decreasing our fundamental mistakes," said Matthew Bermudez, 4-year veteran and co-captain of the team. Timothy Perez, a 2-year veteran, agrees that "team basketball" is a reason for the success of the team. "Our team is performing on a high level because of our point guard, Ildi. He creates opportunities for other players to score," said Timothy.

Mr. Maloney, coach of the boys varsity basketball team, believes that the team needs more time to practice. "After the first eight league games, we still need time to practice, to work on the fundamentals of basketball. The team has turned the ball over too much and loses focus several times during the game," said the coach. Coach Maloney said that at the midpoint of the season, he still finds it hard to evaluate the team. "At times, we had solid efforts, and at other times, lackluster efforts from the team. We need to be more focused on the fundamentals of basketball to be successful," said Coach Maloney.

Many players have gained valuable experience during the first few league games. Matthew said, "It was a good experience to win an easy game against a previously difficult team." David Bermudez, a 9th grade rookie, had a mixed experience in his first league game. "At first, I was nervous playing my first league game. But as the game progressed, my nervousness turned into determination because I knew I had the skills to perform on the court."

Coach Maloney uses the PSAL website to strategize. "I try to determine which of the opposing players are the leading players, and I try to direct the team's attention to focus on containing the offensive players," he said. Once the coach finds the offensive strengths, the team develops a game plan. "Different teams have different

continued on page 15

Mr. Maloney motivates his tigers.

SPORTS

Queens Voc's Top Bowlers Compete In Borough Individuals

by Adiyasa Kurniadi

In November, two girls and boys from the varsity bowling teams participated in the borough individuals, a competition where up to two qualified bowlers from each high school face off against one another.

The individual bowlers are placed on teams and bowl three games. Later, the bowlers' three games are averaged and the ten bowlers with the highest averages receive a medal and move on to the next round.

Only two bowlers from each high school can participate. To be eligible, girls must have average of 125 or higher, and boys must have an average of 160 or higher. Schools that did not have bowlers with qualifying averages were allowed to select their highest-average bowlers.

Yurly Olivares and Stephanie Fernandez participated in the borough individuals on Tuesday November 16, at Jib Lanes, at Parsons Boulevard, in Flushing. Mr. Garofano, the coach of the girls' varsity bowling team, selected Yurly Olivares and Stephanie Fernandez because they were the top two players on the team.

Yurly, a senior, had an average of 110.17. This year was Yurly's first time in the individuals. "It was exciting, but it was a lot of pressure because we represented the school," she said. She didn't qualify for the next round because she didn't rank high enough; she bowled lower than her season average. "Yurly put in a great amount of effort, but she wasn't on her game that day," Mr. Garofano said.

Stephanie, a junior, had a 115.78 average on the team. She didn't qualify for the next round of the individuals because she ranked fourteenth. This year was also Stephanie's first time in the girls' borough individuals. "I think I did well; I tried my best to make it," said Stephanie. Coach Garofano said that Stephanie bowled "very well" at the individuals and that her standings were "respectable."

Emanuel Dunkley and Christopher Hyland participated in the boys' individuals; they were selected by Mr. Devaux, the coach of the boys' varsity bowling team, because they were the top two players on the team. On Monday, November 15, at Cozy Lanes, on Rockaway Boulevard in Ozone Park, the boys' borough individuals took place.

Emanuel, a junior, had a 168.82 average for the season. Christopher, another junior, had a 154.00 average. Neither bowler made it to the semifinals. "I think I did bad and I could've done better. I was a little nervous and next year I'll do better," Emanuel said. "I think I did pretty horrible, I could've done better, but there was too much pressure," Christopher said.

"They both bowled close to their season's average," said Mr. Devaux, who was present at the boys' individuals, "but it just wasn't good enough." Emanuel has some advice for bowlers who make it in the individuals next year, "practice a lot before you go," he said.

Queens Voc's top bowlers come together.

The Got Milk?/Mustache campaign, in partnership with *USA Today*, will award $7,500 scholarships to 25 high school senior student athletes nation wide. This program rewards high school scholar athletes who know that good nutrition helps fuel academic and athletic activities. For further information, check out www.whymilk.com.

TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE