



Vocational Voice

Vol. XCII No. 1

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

Winter, 2017

Operation Santa Delivers



Student elves shipped more than 20 cartons of gifts to brighten Christmas for families.

by Lesly Pavon

Leadership students, teachers, and Mr. Vega came together to work as Santa's little elves to bring smiles to children in need in time for the holidays.

On Dec. 6, Mr. Vega and 15 students went to the United States Postal Service Office located on 8th Ave and 33rd St in Manhattan. Mr. Vega told the students to pick out the letters that they felt they could respond to. The students read 80-100 letters, taking 17 letters to answer, said Mr. Vega. The students and teachers brought in their gifts and wrapped them.

Twenty-two students then went with Mr. Vega to the United States Postal Service Office on Dec. 21 to ship out 23 boxes full of presents.

Operation Santa was founded

in 1912 by the United States Postal Service. About 14 years ago, it was introduced to Queens Voc when "a leadership student inquired about this program and thought it would be a good idea that the school could participate in," said Mr. Vega. He asked his leadership if they were interested, and they agreed to get involved.

Participating students find their efforts rewarding. Maria Martinez participated in this event for two years. She said she wanted to "bring a little bit of joy into somebody's life." Luis Toro participated in this activity for the second time "because it's a good cause and I want to help children in need." He said the experience "is fun and amazing because we get to ship the packages and

continued on page 2

QV Meets Hamilton On Broadway

by Johann Astudillo

One hundred and twenty students from Queens Voc went to see the hit musical Hamilton on Oct. 19.

Hamilton, created by Lin-Manuel Miranda, is a play about one of America's Founding Fathers, Alexander Hamilton, and his impact on the United States of America. The show debuted in February 2015, and

quickly rose to fame winning eleven Tony Awards within a year and also winning the award for Best Musical. Rolling Stone Magazine has said, "Hamilton has been lauded a singular work of brilliance."

Mr. Gallagher, assistant principal of the Humanities Department, who arranged the trip, said, "Hamilton was a way for students to learn history in a

more creative way."

Prior to the show, the producers of the show had arranged for students from different city high schools to perform in front of the audience. Students sang, rapped, and read poetry that referenced Alexander Hamilton and the American Revolution.

Student attendance and performances were made possible because, according to the New York Times, the producers of the musical, Hamilton, partnered up with the DOE and the Rockefeller Foundation to sell reduced price tickets to high school students so that they would be able to see the show.

continued on page 2



Students await the popular theatrical history lesson.

What's Inside this edition of Vocational Voice

SO, VE.....2	College Q&A.....9
Makeup, Yearbook.....3	Principal's Letter.....10
SLT, New Teachers.....4	Freshmen.....11
WBL, CAD, Heat.....5	Inq. Photographer.....12
College, Honor Soc.....6	More Freshmen.....13
FBLA, Senior News.....7	Sr. Sports Profiles.....14-16
Book Club, Barbering...8	Tigers Sports.....17-20

Pop, Lock, and Drop

by Yariel Ortega

junior.

Nearly 40 students attended the Hip-Hop dance club's first session, featuring special guest Carlos Neto. Mr. Neto is a choreographer, dancer, actor, and an instructor at Broadway Dance Center in Manhattan.

The session was held in the auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 27. Mr. Neto taught students basic steps and then he and the students performed together. "It was an amazing experience. We learned different dance steps and had a lot of fun," said Keyla Timbi, a

"I started acting while being a journalist, but found passion in dancing," said Mr. Neto. "From my experience, I would advise students to never give up on their dreams because they hold their own destiny," he added.

Mr. Neto will be returning on Friday, Jan. 13, to continue teaching students the fundamentals of Hip-Hop.

Melissa Ramos, choreographer, performer, and a teacher led the second dance session,

continued on page 2

JANUARY REGENTS SCHEDULE

January 24 Tuesday	January 25 Wednesday	January 26 Thursday	January 27 Friday
9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am
Regents in Global History & Geography Physical Setting/Physics	Living Environment Physical Setting/ Chemistry	Regents in U.S. History & Government Physical Setting/Earth Science Regents in Geometry (Common Core)	Regents in Algebra II (Common Core)
1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	
Regents in English Language Arts (Common Core)	Regents in Algebra 2/Trigonometry (2005 Learning Standard)	Regents in Algebra I (Common Core)	State Admission Deadlines: Morning: 10am Afternoon: 2pm Good Luck!

QV Meets Hamilton

continued from front page

Mr. Gallagher said that he chose Lucas Urbina to represent Queens Voc after numerous other stars auditioned in front of their classmates in school and felt that he was the best candidate to represent the school.

After the performances, Anthony Coneo said, “they were pretty amazing. Students have a passion for their work and it was showcased in their performances, which I thought were great.”

Joshua Sanchez concluded, “We had a great time and had lots of fun.”

SO Membership: A lot more than lockers

by Odette Hernandez

Students who want a locker can go to room 143 to join the student organization. Membership in the SO entitles students to use a locker, said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities. The cost is \$10, but students who own a lock from last year only have to pay \$3. In addition, students will get an SO membership card, which has benefits such as reduced admission costs for dances and trips.

On Oct. 16, the Breast Cancer Walk took place at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Students who participated were able to honor breast cancer survivors, remember those who lost their lives to breast cancer, raise awareness, and support breast cancer fundraising. The students raised over \$9,000, a higher amount of money raised than the previous year.

A smaller group of students participated in the JDRF Walk on Oct. 23, and raised over \$1,300 for diabetes research and treatments.

On Oct. 21, Mr. Vega led a trip to Philadelphia. Fifty students each paid \$50 to attend the trip. Attendees were provided with food and explored attractions that included a haunted house in an old abandoned prison. According to Maria Martinez, “Philadelphia was a fun experience where we learned about the robot revolution by going to the Thomas Jefferson museum.”

October was National Bullying



Famed dancer Carlos Neto takes the stage with students in Ms. Volpe's Hip-Hop club.

Pop, Lock, and Drop It

continued from front page

which took place on Tuesday, Nov. 15. According to Ms. Volpe, Ms. Ramos taught students multiple steps and together they choreographed a simple performance.

The Hip-Hop club is run by Ms. Volpe, an art teacher at Queens Voc. “This club is for

students who want to come and dance without any pressure. There isn't a specific day to meet, instead, we have sessions when special guests are available,” she said. According to Ms. Volpe, students are taught basic steps, which helps them perform solos. Hip-Hop dance sessions are also limited because of availability of the auditorium.

Students are welcome to join the Hip-Hop club, Ms. Volpe said, but must wear sneakers and want to dance. “It is good exercise, very fun, and everyone enjoys it,” she said. “I would like this experience to inspire students to dance. The dance club can motivate students to go to the city to take professional classes at a studio,” said Ms. Volpe.

Prevention Month. Members of leadership handed out over 1,000 orange bracelets to students and staff entering the school on the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 26. Students had also been encouraged to wear orange clothing to support the anti-bullying message. “The bracelets contained words of inspiration and anti-bullying messages,” said Mr. Vega. Students who wore orange were entered in a raffle for a chance to win a QV spirit pack filled with Queens Voc items. The winner was Xavier Abreu. The following day backpacks and water bottles were given out to 10 people who were still wearing their orange bracelets.

The first spirit week of the school year began on Monday, Nov. 14, with pajama day. Tuesday was jersey day, Wednesday was twin day, Thursday was superhero vs. villains day, and Friday was blackout/whiteout day. Not many students participated in the blackout/whiteout day, according to Tatiana Tobon, because of “Friday's short schedule for Parent-Teachers conferences.” Mr. Vega decided to add flannel day for Wednesday, Nov. 23.

During December, staff and students volunteered for Operation

Santa. Volunteers answered 17 letters written to Santa. The letters were picked up at the main branch of the USPS in Manhattan. Leadership students then bought presents such as infant clothing, books, shoes, and food for children in need. Approximately 50 gifts were donated.

A blood drive was held on Friday Jan. 6. A preliminary count showed about 35 donors. To donate, students need parental consent, must weigh more than 120 pounds, and must be at least 16 years old.

Eleven teams participated in the City Harvest Competition. Each team was able to have 10 teammates, collecting as many cans as they could. The cans would then be donated to people in need of food. The team who got the most cans overall won movie tickets.

NYCycles Virtually the only VE firm left

by Michael Vivar

In November, two students from NYCycles, Yariel Ortega and Anahi Rafael, boarded a plane to Germany where they attended a trade show and participated in the Global Enterprise Challenge. Yariel, the CEO of NYCycles, came in third.

According to Yariel, during the Global Enterprise Challenge the students were grouped with students from other countries. The challenge was to create a successful business plan for a company, which were presented in a slideshow. This challenge gave the business students a chance to practice skills, learn new ones, and to meet people from different countries, Yariel said.

NYCycles is a business firm in the Virtual Enterprises network, designed for seniors majoring in business. VE firms are organized like real firms, with a CEO, and employees in six departments: accounting, administration, human resources, marketing, and web design. The biggest difference is that there are no actual products or money, everything is virtual. VE business students experience what it would be like to work in an actual firm, and to use the business skills they learned in 10th and 11th grade.

Two other business firms, DCW, the first amongst the three programs to be created about 10 years ago, and STAR, used to be a part of the VE network, but are no longer running, according to Mr. Mugan, because of the retirement of Ms. Mitchell at the end of last year. Since she is no longer teaching, there are not enough teachers to keep all three firms running.

The only one remaining is NYCycles, which is run and taught by Mr. Mugan.

At the trade show in Germany, students from a variety of countries were also brought together to

Operation Santa

continued from front page

sometimes we receive letters back from the kids saying thank you.”

Leslye Aracena, a junior and new member in leadership, said she had “a good feeling by helping children in need.” Her goal was “to be able to fulfill the letter completely and help a child receive a Christmas present.”

Miguel Romero, an SO member said he plans to participate in this event next year too because the experience “was fun due to the fact that we struggled to get the gifts to the Post Office.” He responded to a letter because he knows “how even if it's something small, it can make a kid really happy.”

represent and showcase their own VE firms. The idea was for them to sell their virtual products, see how much money could be generated, and to learn more about product promotion and showcasing. According to Yariel, “About half a million dollars” was generated by NYCycles.

“As the CEO, I have to oversee NYCycles. I have to keep an open mind to the new ideas from my teammates. I have to maintain a positive attitude because I set the tone of the firm. It is a lot of work, which gets overwhelming, but I love working under pressure,” Yariel said. “Although it's a tough job, I enjoy every moment of it. I also have a great teacher, Mr. Mugan, who guides me,” he said.

On Nov. 4, Flor Amigon, Jamyang Choedrop, Steven Cortez, Yariel Ortega, Anahi Rafael, and Cindy Sewlochan from NYCycles attended a networking workshop at the Academy of Finance and Enterprise. This workshop included the grand opening of new VE firms in the Academy of Finance and Enterprise. Business transactions were also made and students were given the chance to put skills to use, and to pick up a few new ones.

There are still more upcoming events and competitions involving NYCycles, such as the business trade show taking place in California in March and another trade show happening in NYC in April.

“In the upcoming months I hope that our employees will keep working hard so that we will strive to be one of the best firms in the VE network,” Yariel said.



Vanessa puts anti-bullying wristband on Lupe.



NYCycles reps and Ms. Gross at a networking workshop.



Professional artist Shenyce demonstrates on Samara.

Makeup 101 with Shenyce

by Jennifer Orduna

On Tuesday, Oct. 18, the senior cosmetology classes met Shenyce from Metamorphosis, a makeup artist company, who came to Queens Voc to demonstrate makeup application and give the senior cosmetology students some tips.

Shenyce Bacchus is the sister of Samara Deokiesingh, a senior, who was the model for Sheynce’s demonstration. “Ms. Q and I were talking about my job and someone started talking about makeup,” Samara said, “I brought up how my sister does makeup and is a professional artist, so Ms. Q thought it would be a good idea to invite her because that topic isn’t covered a lot in our cosmetology classes.”

Shenyce taught the students how to do everyday makeup and theatrical makeup for Halloween. She told the students that while most people believe that the most expensive makeup is the best, “even cheap makeup can be very good, you just need to learn how to work with it.”

Shenyce began her demonstration with an everyday look. She showed the students which

way to apply foundation and how to not get it cakey around the T zone area (the part of the face made up by the forehead, nose, chin and area circling the mouth which is usually the most oily part of the face).

Next she showed the students how to apply eyeshadow, and what colors she uses for a natural look. Then she demonstrated how to apply mascara to make their eyelashes appear longer.

Shenyce gave the senior cosmetologists many tips about makeup.

Ambar Pucha, one of the seniors said, “I enjoyed it because she gave a lot of techniques that are recent and addressed any questions I had about makeup.”

Shenyce also showed how to do theatrical makeup. She demonstrated how to make it look like the facial skin was falling off. She used gelatin mixture, scab blood, stage blood, tape, textured sponge, NYX cream paint in red, black and purple, peach eye shadow from makeup geek, variety of cream concealer, and black and brown eye shadows. After showing students the process, Mrs. Quartuccio even tried it out on Mrs. Cagen.



Students practice newly-learned makeup techniques.

SkillsUSA Community Service and Competitions

by Nicole Pineda

Last year, about 20 Queens Voc’s SkillsUSA members competed in the state competitions. Some members even won first place. Geovanny Velez, Erika Ramirez, and Derek Toohey went all the way to the national competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

This year, according to SkillsUSA advisor Ms. Ramdeo,

approximately 50 members have joined SkillsUSA.” Most of the students competing are from cosmetology and electrical. We might even have a local chapter competition before sending to them to the city competition.”

The competitions are based on the majors offered at Queens Voc. and other basic skills such as job interviews, public speaking, and customer service. Students Ian

Picture This...

by Lesly Pavon

The yearbook committee, said Ms. DeCarlo, has been working “to create a book of memories that represents the wonderful times this year’s graduating class has spent at QV together.”

Ms. DeCarlo, who works as an AP Psychology and Global History teacher, has been the yearbook advisor for eight years.

Yearbook committee meetings take place every Thursday at 3:30 in room 325. This is the room in which they have access to computers to obtain pictures and create the yearbook layouts.

Ms. DeCarlo also said that those who join were expected to be self-motivated and willing to work hard. “After a couple of meetings, many students dropped out and I was left with a core group of dedicated and committed yearbook staffers,” she said. Currently, about 15-20 students show up to meetings, said Jordi Anaya.

Carol Morelos is one of those seniors. “I joined the yearbook because I want to have a chance to meet new people and to spend more time with my friends doing something we are all interested in and to have fun,” she said. Based on the meetings Nancy Rodriguez has attended, she said she thinks “everyone is really friendly and even if some people don’t know



Wilson looks sharp as he sits for his senior portrait.

each other, it’s really fun.” Rosita Cortez said her goal as a yearbook committee member is to create a book full of pictures which serve as memories for the senior class.

Seniors who aren’t on the yearbook committee can also contribute pictures, said Ms. DeCarlo. Seniors can take pictures on their phone, then upload them to an app called ReplayIt, which they can download for free on mobile devices.

Ms. DeCarlo said she tries to negotiate to push the deadline back a little further than April, because Oscar Night and the senior luncheon happen afterwards, which is why the pictures don’t end up in the yearbook.

Senior portraits took place Dec. 12-16 in the auditorium. Seniors must choose the picture they want in the yearbook as soon as they are available online. If the student does not, the studio will choose one for them, said Ms.

DeCarlo. Seniors who have any questions or concerns can call Jasienowski Studios at (718) 417-4317.

Ms. DeCarlo splits the yearbook tasks, which range from baby pictures, sports, senior officers, and layout, among the committee members, said Jennifer Orduna.

Jordi Anaya said that the yearbook will consist of pictures of spirit week, the senior trip, Queens Voc staff, sports teams, and clubs. Two pages will be dedicated for each shop class, he added.

The yearbook cover and quote have been chosen by the committee, said Jonathan Gomez. The theme is a Dr. Seuss quote: “You have brains in your head, feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any direction you choose.” The cover has been designed to reflect the theme, Daisy Paguay said.

Guidance Counselor Availability

Guidance Counselors	Ms. Basirico SES	Ms. Judge SSBT	Ms. Karabelas College Advisor	Ms. Mualem SCEET	Ms. Vasquez SED
Periods Available	2-4, 6-10 Friday: 1-4, 6-9	1-6, 8-9	1-4, 6-10 Fridays: 1-4, 6-9	1-3, 5-9	1-5, 7-10 Fridays: 1-5, 7-9

Iyeke and Ariel Rivera are planning on competing for electronics technology. This involves a customer service exam, a written exam, soldering, breadboarding, and troubleshooting.

Wreaths Across America, an organization in which SkillsUSA members place wreaths on the tombs of fallen soldiers, took place on Dec. 17 in Cypress Hills National Cemetery. Members asked for donations inside and outside of school. They raised approximately \$300 and were able to purchase 20 wreaths at \$15 each. Five Queens Voc students attended the event.

On Dec. 16, SkillsUSA hosted a winter-themed dance in the Queens Voc cafeteria. Invited were Queens Voc and Aviation students for a \$5 entry. There was a buffet, which cost \$5 for a drink and plate of food. “The dance was great. I, in particular, enjoyed the setup of the dance

with tables surrounding a huge dance floor. Aviation definitely brought the party to Queens Voc,” said Ilia Goro. The dance had a variety of Chinese and Latin American foods, hip-hop, pop, and Hispanic music, and winter-themed decorations.

On Nov. 17, the SkillsUSA annual bake sale was held and was extended to parent-teacher conference hours. Treasurer Gisselle Bravo said that over \$2,400 was raised, which will be used to pay for travel expenses and fees for the competitors. “It was a great turnout. We sold everything except the bags of chips, which we will use for the dance.”

Throughout October, members had the opportunity to go online and elect their chapter’s officers. Elected were President Gurman Bhumak, Vice President Natalia Perez, Treasurer Gisselle Bravo, Parliamentarian Ian Iyeke, Secretary Samara Deokiesingh,

and Reporter Johann Astudillo. “I ran for office because I wanted to play a big role in the meetings and contribute as much as possible in upcoming events. My job is to manage the meetings and make sure all the members are on track,” said Ian.

Sophomore Ariel Rivera joined SkillsUSA for the first time this year. “I mainly joined because I want to compete in something related to my engineering major.” Salma Rivera, a returning SkillsUSA member, said her favorite part is that “Everybody is social and so friendly. I have made so many friends and built connections with people that I wouldn’t have otherwise.”

Ms. Ramdeo said the chapter meetings take place in room 346 on Wednesdays and Thursdays once or twice a month. In these meetings, members discuss upcoming events, dress attire, and the various forms of competitions.

SLT Advocates for Improvements



Students discuss ways to improve Queens Voc.

by Ryan Ramírez

“The school has a place for an open forum for students, parents, and teachers to be heard,” said Ms. Ocampo, and that place is the School Leadership Team.

The SLT assists the principal in determining the structure for school-based planning and shared decision making.

According to Ms. Burg, the purpose of these meetings is “to discuss issues of concern to students and staff, and to help me solve them to make the School a better place.”

Student representatives for

each SLC are Luis Chango and Maricarmen Ramirez for SCEET, Vatsal Patel and Elijah Rosario for SES, Juan Alarca and Jessica Leon Lopez for SSBT, and Andy Moran represents students in SED.

Staff members this year are Mr. Raynor, UFT Rep, Ms. Salas-Ocampo, who represents the administrators, Ms. Rejalaga and Mr. Schimenz who are teacher representatives. Parent representatives are Ms. Nicolovienis, PA President, Ms. Karen Carroscio, Ms. Keitha Goodluck, and Ms. Maria Restrepo.

SLT meetings are held monthly and students and staff who have concerns should speak to their representatives. The meetings are

open and observers are welcome to attend. Meeting dates are posted on the school website and on the new monitors in the hallways.

“Students roaming the halls and constantly using their phones interrupt the learning process,” said Mr. Raynor in a recent meeting. Ms. Ocampo agreed, saying that “Hallways can be improved. We can do more to prevent students from wearing hats and using cell phones.”

Another topic that has come up frequently is the condition of the bathrooms. Ms. Burg said, “The people who dirty the bathrooms are the students who should be helping to maintain bathrooms.” Students, she said, “should treat the building like it’s their home.”

New Teachers Bring Enthusiasm to New Careers

by Flor Amigon

Queens Voc hired 12 new teachers this year: Mr. Beninati, Mr. Bermudez, Ms. Berry, Ms. Cagen, Ms. Cautela, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Kidambi, Ms. Raab, Ms. Richards, Ms. Ulloa, and Ms. Wu.

Mr. Beninati is a pre-engineering teacher. He said that before coming to work at Queens Voc he was an SVA at Automotive High School. Mr. Beninati is an alumnus of Queens Voc and was involved with the robotics team as a student and later as a mentor. He said he wanted to come back. “This is the best CTE school,” said Mr. Beninati, who is in his first full year of teaching. Mr. Beninati said he graduated from New York City College of Technology, and that while attending college, he mentored the robotics team, which helped him realized that he wanted to teach here.

Mr. Bermudez is a first-year EI teacher. He said he came from Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He attended Queens Voc, majored in EI, and graduated in 2005. He then graduated from Empire State College in the program of union apprentices, he said. Mr. Bermudez spoke at Career Day last year and heard of an opening for EI teacher. He decided to apply because he always wanted to be a teacher, he said.

Ms. Berry teaches science and math. She said that before coming to Queens Voc, she taught at MS 328, Manhattan Middle School for Scientific Inquiry, for a year. Ms. Berry majored in business and graduated from Long Island University. Although her dream job was to become an actress, she said she became a teacher instead because she wants to make an impact on students. Ms. Berry said that Queens Voc students are more mature, the curriculum is rigorous, and the staff is more supportive.

Ms. Cagen teaches cosmetology. She said that before coming to Queens Voc, she taught at Valley Stream Central High School, but chose to come here because of the variety of our programs and the focus on our CTE programs. “I didn’t know that CTE was taught in public schools. When I found out it was, I was so happy,” she said. She also liked the idea of teaching in a specific grade. Ms. Cagen graduated from New York Institute of Technology.

Ms. Cautela teaches English Language Arts. She said that before coming to Queens Voc, she taught at IS 61, as a special education teacher in science for seventh and eighth graders. Ms. Cautela said she left her previous position because she wanted to try teaching high schoolers. Ms. Cautela graduated from Long Island University, got her master’s degree in urban adolescents in special education, and bachelor’s

degree in international business and marketing. “I love how Queens Voc prepares students for careers and college,” said Ms. Cautela.

Ms. Hernandez teaches business. Working in a life insurance agency, she said, helped her realize that people need to be educated in business and be aware of the importance of insurance. Ms. Hernandez attended Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York. She has taught for about 12 years. Before coming to Queens Voc, she taught computer applications, Virtual Enterprise, and entrepreneurship at John Adams High School. “I like the school’s programs, the students are good, and they are interested in their major and they take it seriously,” said Ms. Hernandez.

Mr. Jackson teaches physical education and health. He said he taught at Aviation before coming to Queens Voc. Mr. Jackson attended Long Island University Post. He said he majored in computer science, but his love for basketball and sports helped him realize that he wanted to become a phys. ed. and health teacher instead. He has been teaching for nine years. Mr. Jackson said he loves Queens Voc and that so far it’s going very well for him. “I like my co-workers, how everyone gets along, and how it’s a positive learning environment,” he said.

Ms. Kidambi is an English as a Second Language/English as a

New Language teacher. She said that before coming to Queens Voc she taught ESL in a middle school in France. She taught summer school at Queens Voc and liked what the school offers. Ms. Kidambi said she graduated from Saint John’s University and majored in French Language.

Ms. Raab is an English teacher who is teaching junior and senior classes this year. She has seven years experience in business and three years of teaching at Academy of American Studies in temporary teaching positions. She received her Master of Arts in English Literature from Queens College. Before teaching, she was a business analyst in two manufacturing companies and a financial analyst in an accounting firm, but her passion for English literature, education, and her own growing family led her to change careers. “I enjoyed business and was successful, but it was too many hours away from home,” Ms. Raab said. She said she is happy to be at Queens Voc because “it’s a great school that meets the needs of the students and helps to prepare them for their future outside of high school.”

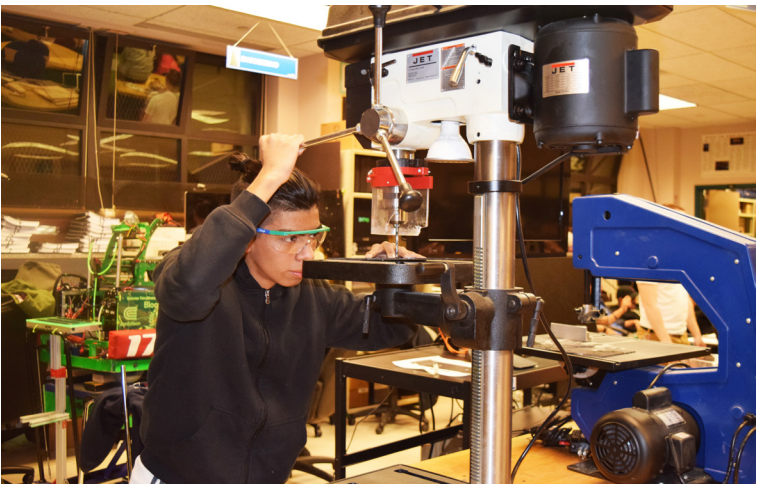
Ms. Richards, now an English Language Arts teacher, worked at Queens Voc paraprofessional for the past four years, where she worked one to one with specific students in the classroom for four years in Queens Voc. “This is my first year being a teacher,”

said Ms. Richards. Ms. Richards is now attending Long Island University for her Master’s of Science in Special Education. She feels that the students and staff are better in Queens Voc and that this “atmosphere promotes growth.” She always wanted to be a writer but her love of being around kids pushed her into this field, she said.

Ms. Ulloa is a Spanish teacher. She said that before coming to Queens Voc she taught at a middle school in Brooklyn, but applied to Queens Voc because she wanted to work with high school students and this school had better ratings than other schools. Ms. Ulloa said she likes Queens Voc more than her old school because “students are more respectful here and the staff is very nice.” She attended Queens College and NYIT, majoring in education and Spanish literature, but graduated with her master’s in counseling. Ms. Ulloa said she wasn’t sure what career she wanted but knew she wanted to be surrounded by kids, so she thought being a teacher was best for her.

Ms. Wu is an environmental earth science teacher. Before coming to Queens Voc, she taught at PS 96 for four years but, she said, she really wanted to teach high schools students because they are more mature. She graduated from Hunter College. Ms. Wu began with biology pre-med but changed to environmental earth sciences.

RoboTigers Ready for Regionals



by Luis A. Vasquez

This year’s robotics competition kicked-off on Saturday, Jan. 7, when the annual challenge was announced. Thirty-two students, 15 alumni, and seven

mentors gathered in room 346. This year’s game is called Steamworks. The challenge involves three separate robots each doing a task involving wiffle balls, gears, and rotors. Competing schools join alliances

of three teams and face off against other alliances.

The teams have six weeks to design, build, and troubleshoot their robots. The Hudson Valley Regional competition that the RoboTigers will participate in will begin March 24. The robotics team will also compete in the Long Island Regionals, which takes place a week later.

Nutrition Program a Huge Success

by Luis A. Vasquez

Queens Voc is offering a spring nutrition program for parents and community members.

The fall term’s program had about 12 participating each Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

Ms. Baez, the parent coordinator, organized the

bilingual program.

The program covered topics such as basic nutrition, portion size, food safety, shopping and budgeting, food preparation, and the importance of physical activity.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14 at the last meeting for the fall term, the

participants brought in nutritious foods to celebrate their completion of the program, for which they received certificates from the Cornell University Extension, which sponsors the program.

Pictured with Ms. Baez are the parents and community members who completed the program.



Work-Based Learning Provides Experience

by Maricarmen Ramirez

Ilia Goro, a senior in Cisco, completed his Worked-Based Learning hours in Mouse Squad. “I learned how to make Ethernet cables and mass re-image desktops,” he said. Ilia said he had a great experience. “I got to learn a lot with my classmates,” he said.

Montana Stevens, a senior in pre-engineering, is currently an intern at the New York Hall of Science. She said she participates in group activities that help the interns break the ice and be creative. “At the end of the meetings, we come up with an invention that would benefit the community,” Montana said. In one meeting, a student invented the “Chip,” which would move around, consuming garbage and crushing it, so more trash will be collected than with the average garbage truck. She enjoys being

there because, she said, “you’re never not learning.”

Work Based Learning gives students the opportunity to work in the field of their chosen major. It prepares and exposes students to learn what it is to work at a job.

In Queens Voc, 60 hours of WBL are required, said Ms. Zagada, the WBL coordinator for SCEET and SSBT. Students must meet the 60 hours within their four years at Queens Voc or they will not graduate with their CTE endorsed diploma, she added.

Currently, there are about 215 students earning their WBL hours in SSBT and SCEET, according to Ms. Zagada. Ten students in SSBT and 15 students in SCEET are involved in internships, the rest are participating in other WBL activities. There are about 90 seniors in SES who have already completed their hours said Ms. Gross.

The hours consist of paid or non-paid internships, or attending career and college fairs, workshops, trips, job shadowing, or anything that enhances students’ knowledge in their major.

“The students not only practice what they learned in class, but they acquire new skills. They learn new technology that they bring back to school. Students can connect classrooms to industry,” said Ms. Zagada. She added that students come to class knowing how to use equipment and programs that they previously used in the worksite.

Students can begin completing their hours once their designated WBL coordinator approves their worksite. Hours can be completed during the weekend, vacations, summer, after school, and weekdays when school is not in session. SES students often earn their hours at Sunnyside Community Service Center, in Virtual Enterprise class, or at beauty shows and salons. Ms. Zagada’s SCEET and SSBT students work with electrical and plumbing contractors, Mouse Squad, the CTE Summers Scholars program, and New York Hall of Science.

Ms. Zagada frequently updates the Worked Based Learning page on the Queens Voc website with new posts of job opportunities. Depending on the job, the number of spots open to students may be limited and seeing Ms. Zagada as soon as possible is crucial.



Mouse Squad technicians earning WBL credits.



CAD classes were supposed to be held in the library.

CAD Class on Hold for Now

by Jordalin Ortega

A computer-aided design class was supposed to start this fall, but did not because the school was “unable to secure another teacher due to financial constraints,” said AP Alikakos. The CAD class was supposed to be taught in the library computer lab.

Mr. MacDonald, the program chair, said, “The hope is that the program will start in the 2017-2018 school year.”

In October, Mr. Rodriguez and his computer class swapped the new CAD computers in the library with the older computers from 416.

For CAD to be taught next year, the school would again have to buy new machines that can handle the CAD software.

CAD is used for blueprint reading in engineering and construction. The version of CAD that was supposed to be taught this year is called SOLIDWORKS. “The purpose of SOLIDWORKS and CAD is to help students

better understand the world we are moving into,” Assistant Principal Ali said. He said that CAD benefits students by better preparing them for construction or engineering in college.

“The philosophy of Queens Voc is to let our students experience something here for the first time rather than in the real world,” said AP Alikakos. “We would like to create the opportunity for our students to take CAD as it is industry standard and our students deserve the opportunity,” he said.

CAD is going to be geared towards students in SCEET and select students in SSBT. “SSBT students who have a similar schedule to SCEET students may have CAD as their art credit,” said AP Ali. The initial plan was five periods of CAD class with 28 students in each class.

For now, seniors will be working on college applications and researching with guidance in the library computer lab until Queens Voc has the money it needs to start the class.

HVAC Problems Continue to Plague Bldg.

by Ngawang Dawa

HVAC system—heating, ventilation and air conditioning—are supposed to maintain a comfortable temperature inside the building even if it’s cold or hot outside, but in Queens Voc the HVAC system isn’t providing thermal comfort.

“The AC/heating system is like the seven continents,” said senior Steven Cortes, “you have classrooms that are as cold as the Arctic and some classrooms as hot as the Sahara Desert.”

Students and teachers have complained about the HVAC system for a long time. The temperature inside the “new” building has been unpredictable for years. During the beginning of the school year when the weather outside was usually around 70 degrees, students brought in sweaters or jackets to wear because some areas in school were very cold. The cafeteria and the cosmetology lab, room 334, are often colder than the other rooms in the building. “I have brought in a sweater just to wear in cafeteria. I’ve even asked people for a sweater, that’s how critical it is,” said junior Keyla Timbi. “I always tell the girls at the beginning of the school year to bring a sweater,” said Ms. Quartuccio, who teaches cosmetology in room 334.

According to AP Garcia, this problem has been going on “since the new wing was opened in 2005.” The HVAC system averages all the rooms’

temperatures in the new wing and determines if the AC or heater turns on. “It is controlled through a computerized system,” said Ms. Holland, the head custodian. The HVAC system is supposed to maintain the building at 68 degrees but many rooms have

different temperatures because the HVAC “is not a perfect system. It’s not working properly,” said Ms. Holland. She said that she will “turn off the AC or turn on the heater if requested, but it will take about an hour for the temperature in the building to change.”



Heating system leaves some cold, overheats others.

Exploring Cosmetology

by Jennifer Orduna

Each marking period the freshmen in exploratory rotate to a different one of six majors: business, graphic arts, plumbing, electrical installation, pre-engineering, and cosmetology.

Mrs. Cagen, teaches exploratory cosmetology. “The program focuses on manicuring and facials—and safety and client consultation. The students need to learn how to work in a germ-free, sanitary environment,” said Mrs. Cagen.

“We teach all aspects of

manicuring and facials, such as identifying different skin types, and performing facials that are suited to the specific needs of a client. We also focus on the male aspect of cosmetology,” she said. Of the 23 students in her exploratory class, most are males. “I have 8 girls and 15 boys! That is amazing because there are a lot of men who become amazing cosmetologists,” she said.

Freshman Sydney Barreto said, “The exploratory program teaches us things about life and things we can use in our future, and I think it is fun

No R=AIN in Sight

by Kevin Tenempaguay

The Gay-Straight Alliance, or R=AIN, led by advisor Ms. Miaoulis started the school year inactive and unnoticed because of the lack of “dedicated members and time inconvenience,” said Ms. Miaoulis.

Ms. Miaoulis has been the advisor for two years and hosted meetings to plan events for the club. However there have been no meetings or events yet. “The students and I have been unable to arrange a meeting because of the different time each student gets out of school,” she said.

Member Erick Mathus said, “Being unable to get together and arrange plans for this year is a big problem and won’t let us introduce ourselves in the LGBT community.”

Senior Dakota Elbettah has been with the group since freshman year. “This year Ms. Miaoulis and I are planning to create school events such as bake sales for LGBT charities and other fun event for not only club members, but for everyone,” she said. “The problem here is that we are having difficulties finding a good day where both students and the teacher can come together to get everything started,” Dakota said.

If and when GSA begins meeting, they plan to welcome students interested in learning about the LGBT communities or anyone who wants to help with potential activities. “We hope to be able to relate and express ourselves freely,” Dakota said. “We want to spread our love and understanding,” she said.

and interesting to learn all these new things.”



Exploratory students learn how to give a manicure.

College Now, Not Later



Mr. Raynor and his fall College Algebra and Trig class.

by Jordi Anaya

Two hundred and eighty-one Queens Voc students took College Now classes from 2013 to 2015. Eighty-eight percent of the students passed.

This semester, 181 students signed up for College Now classes at either Queens Voc or LaGuardia Community College.

Eight courses are offered for next semester: College Algebra & Trigonometry with Ms. Yanovsky on Saturdays from 8am-12pm; Composition I with Ms. Rejalaga on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:15pm-6:15pm; Critical Thinking with Ms. Ridge on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 6:40am-7:40am; General Psychology with Ms. Ocampo on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:40am-7:40am; Introduction to Business with Ms. Morgan-Thomas on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 6:40am-7:40am; Literacy and Propaganda

with Ms. DeCarlo on Tuesdays from 3:30pm-6:30pm; Public Speaking with Mr. Schimenz on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:40am-7:40am; Reading the Biography with Mr. McDowl on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15pm-5:45pm; and Topics in Biological Sciences with Mr. Miller on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:40am-7:40am.

Juniors and seniors who plan to sign up for College Now courses should see Ms. Ocampo in Room 155 for classes that take place at the school, or Ms. Carpino in Room 413 for classes that take place at LaGuardia Community College. Before signing up, students should note that missing class three times means a teacher can fail them. Students must sign up before Regents week in January.

“College Now classes allow students to experience the rigorous environment that comes with college,” said Ms. Ocampo,

who coordinates the College Now program at Queens Voc. These classes also allow students to earn college credits. “Students can earn three college credits per class, which can then be transferred to some colleges, including some CUNY and SUNY schools,” she said.

Ms. Carpino, who coordinates the College Now courses held at LaGuardia, said, “Students should contact the colleges they plan to apply to to find out if they accept College Now credits.”

Senior Omar Contreras has taken three College Now classes: Composition I, General Psychology, and Reading the Biography. Omar said he finds the classes fun and challenging. “College Now classes are interesting and difficult, especially General Psychology. The lessons forced me to think outside the box,” he said. “The college credits you earn will help you out and relieve some stress when starting college,” he added.

College Now classes are mandatory for some students, such as those who don’t have enough classes in their schedules, or for students in SES. Students must have at least seven academic courses. “Because many of our students are advanced coming into 9th grade, they already have high school credits, and it’s harder to give them academic courses,” said Ms. Ocampo. “I think College Now classes are the best option because they only meet twice a week and they expose the students to college-level curriculum.”

College Now courses for the spring semester begin January 31.

Advanced Placement for an Advanced Life



Ms. Ridge teaching seniors in AP English Literature.

by Debanjali Dey

“AP classes offer more opportunities for students to have higher level classes. Research has shown that students who take AP classes tend to have a better time getting into college,” said Ms. Martino Alves, assistant principal of data, testing, and compliance.

Advanced Placement courses are essentially college-level courses taken in high school and graded on scale of one to five. Students who earn a three or higher receive college credit.

Two more AP courses—AP Psychology and AP Art History—were added this year, bringing the total number offered to Queens Voc to seven.

AP Art History, taught by Ms. Miaoulis, delves into more of the context of individual art pieces,

unlike a regular art class which is project-based studio art. “The students seem very determined to do well and are very receptive. I provide various resources to support lessons in class. We use a lot of external resources, which research has shown, increases the likelihood of passing the AP exam,” said Ms. Miaoulis. There are 21 students in the AP Art History class. Nationally, 61.4 percent of the students who took the AP Art History exam last year earned a three or higher.

Sixty-nine Queens Voc students took one or more AP exam last year; eight of those students earned a three or higher. Two earned a five on their AP Calculus AB test.

The AP Psychology class taught by Ms. DeCarlo has 18 students this year. The annual

percentage of students who received a three or above is 64.2.

Equal=Unfair?

by Ngawang Dawa

Students may know of Ayn Rand through her book *Anthem*, which has been used by numerous teachers, including Mr. Ackerman, Mrs. Gaskin, Ms. Rejalaga, and Mr. Schimenz.

Now, many students know of Yaron Brook, who, for the second time in two years, has spoken to an auditorium full of students, mostly from SES. Dr. Brook heads the Ayn Rand Institute, an organization that spreads Ayn Rand’s ideas throughout the world.

This year, Dr. Brook spoke about his newest book, *Equal is Unfair*. The premise of the book, he said, is that people by nature are different, and that attempts to force them to be equal has led to some terrible results.

Dr. Brook did say that one form of equality is important: equality before the law. “That’s what government is supposed to do,” he said, “treat people equally.” But government shouldn’t punish people for being successful, he said.

AP Garcia, who arranged the assembly, said that hearing from Dr. Brook is beneficial for students, who should be exposed to a variety of views and ideas.

QV’s Brightest Shine



Inductees passing on the light of knowledge.

by Minwoo Lee

Seventy-nine students were inducted into the school’s honor societies on Friday, Dec. 9. Twelve students were inducted into Arista and sixty-seven students were inducted into the Presidential Honor Society.

To be inducted into Arista, students have to earn a 95 or higher on their transcript. Presidential Honor Society members need a 90 or higher.

The induction started with the candidates walking into the auditorium where about 200 parents were seated.

Junior Vanessa Myroniuk, an honor society inductee, then sang the Star Spangled Banner.

Ms. Ocampo read a congratulatory letter from President Obama to the members. Ms. Burg then spoke, telling the inductees she was proud of them, and that they “should stay focused and motivated in school. Everyone can make positive contribution to the society.”

The induction ended with candle-lighting ceremony, led by Mr. Garcia. “The light from the candle represents knowledge,” said Ms. Karabelas. “Lighting each other’s candle signifies passing knowledge onto others,” she added.

After the induction, the inductees and their family members were invited to the cafeteria for snacks.

The following students were inducted:

Arista

Kate Leslie Canlobo
Vanessa Cuellar
Nathalia Grajales Bedoya
Victoria Guerrero
Peter Ke
Maya Kenawy
Daniel Laszczych
Caterin Loja
Cynthia Loja
Juan Prieto
Kate Sosa
Jia Chen Yang

Presidential Honor Society

9th Grade:

Nicolas Aguilar
Kevin Cruz
David Kumar
Jennifer Rivera

10th Grade:

Kayla Alston
Adriel Arias
Chelsea Atupana

Nagelly Campoverde
Chelsy Castellanos
Sabrina Chen
Salmaith Damian Carrera
Jonathan Espinoza
Elvis Estrada
Janna Ghoneim
Alex Gualpa Macance
Joshua Hernandez
Jennifer Ilhuicatz
Mary Macancela
Sonia Martinez
Michael Minchala
Jeilyn Nunez
Erick Rivera
Michelle Rojas
Jennifer Saeteros
Karen Sanaicela Pagua
John Sumba
Edison Tenelema
Alexis Toxqui Azucena
Mike Velasquez
Wendy Venegas
Chelsea Vicente
Janeth Vinanzaca

11th Grade:

Nicole Candelario
Stephanie Cantos
Anthony Coneo
Alexandra Gonon Perez
Jackeline Guillen
Jose Mexca
Oscar Montes
Vanessa Myroniuk
Sebastian Ortiz
Raymond Quiroz
Jaskaran Singh
Hajab Syedan
Andrea Tanio
Keyla Timbi
Lucas Urbina
Justin Yulo

12th Grade:

Emily Alatorre
Flor Amigon
Jailene Ceron Soledad
Pinki Chumber
Debanjali Dey
Franshesca Diaz
Sarah Elbettah
Odalis Espinoza
Ilia Goro
Brian Guaman
Jordalin Ortega
Yariel Ortega
Paul Palacios
Marcos Perez
Nicole Pineda
Anahi Rafael
Ryan Ramirez
Giselle Sanchez
Lucas Thomas
Bartlomiej Zabrocki

**Congratulations to
all our
Honor Society
inductees!**

Maintenance Problems and Overcrowding in CTE Classes



Disconnected drain prevents students from working here.

by Ashley Guanga

Good enough is the enemy of it can be better. The Voc Voice slogan is at work as overcrowding hinders Virtual Enterprise students and cosmetology students cannot complete as many jobs because of plumbing problems. Room 412 is the Virtual Enterprise room, where senior business students practice their skills in an interactive office environment. “We have a very

large VE class of 33 students. We are short on chairs, computers, and space for each student to work. This is the largest VE class in years,” said Mr. Mugan. “Before this year, there were three VE classes, but budget cuts led to a reduction in the number of VE classes, resulting in the overcrowded class,” he said. VE student Ali Askar said, “I don’t have a computer, so most of my work is done on my phone and I switch with another student if I

need the computer.” Mr. Garcia, the assistant principal in charge of the business department, is aware of the situation and said he is “working on a solution with Mr. Alikakos to move furniture to make the space.” Mr. Garcia has purchased new office equipment for the room and plans to remove the file cabinets in the back to make space for students to work. Room 344 has a different problem. According to Erika Ramirez, of the eight sinks in the cosmetology room, “there is one working sink, which is used for the shampooing and conditioning center, slowing down the amount of jobs I can complete.” Most of the sinks have either drainage problems or missing knobs. Karen Gonzalez said, “there are at least 28 students with two or three mannequins each. After most jobs we have to wash our mannequin but usually can’t because the sink is being used.” According to Mrs. Holland, the head custodian, “the Department of Education was made aware of the plumbing situation, however when they fix the sinks is unknown.” Ms. Quartuccio declined to comment for this article.

Lockdown, Lockdown, Lock it Down

by Anahi Rafael

On the morning of Sept. 22, an unauthorized student from a Bronx high school entered Queens Voc with the intention of leaving with a girl he knew. The result was a lockdown that lasted an hour. The girl was on the fourth floor, when the incident took place. Mr. McCarthy reported the incident to the deans. According to Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of organization and security, he was notified of the incident around 9:30am as he was driving to work and directed Mr. Schimenz, student support specialist, commonly referred to as dean, to commence a lockdown, and contact the police, and initiate a search of the building. During the lockdown, students and teachers were not allowed to leave the classrooms. This left Mr. Mendez, Mr. Schimenz, the assistant principals, and the responding police officers to search for the intruder. It was later concluded by the school safety agents that the young man left before the lockdown even started, exiting right through the main doors. Later that day, the young man was arrested and the young lady pressed charges. Mr. Mendez said the lockdown was necessary in order to reinforce students’ safety. Erika Paci , a senior, who was locked down in her English class said, “I felt scared because I thought they had a gun in the school.” When the lockdown ended the bell schedule was adjusted, students could go on with their daily schedules.



Senior officers working hard now to have fun later.

Senior News

by Jaqueline Serrano

“My plans are to have a fun and productive year,” said Senior Class President Victoria Guerrero, “and to have several senior fundraisers and events such as ice cream sundae fun day and students vs. teachers sports events to cut prices for senior prom and the luncheon. I also want to make our school safer and cleaner for all students.” Victoria Guerrero was declared class president after the election on Thursday, Nov. 4. She ran unopposed. The only position that had opposition was vice president. Samara Deokieslingh, Jennifer Ordu a, and Jacqueline Serrano ran for vice president. Jacqueline won. Lesly Pavon, the secretary, said she ran because she enjoys leadership and also wants to be involved in helping the senior class have a good year. Luis Toro, the senior class treasurer, said he is responsible and organized when it comes to keeping track of senior dues and fundraising money. Mr. Vega, the senior class advisor, said that seniors running for office are required to have a

minimum average of 80, 90% attendance rate, no deans record, and have participated in the leadership class for at least a year. The final \$60 senior dues payment is due by Feb. 3. A \$60 deposit was due Nov. 30. Senior dues cover the yearbook, diploma case, cap and gown, graduation expenses, and photo sitting for the senior portrait. The senior trip will be at Honors Haven Resort from Jan. 13 through Jan. 15. Mr. Vega said it is a great trip because seniors get together and have a good time. Seniors cannot have a deans record and must pass all their classes in the second marking period to go on the trip. The cost of the trip is \$335. The final payment was due Jan. 4. To reduce cost of the senior trip and dues, seniors can sell chocolate. They will save \$30 for each box sold. The senior hoodie is included with the payment for the senior trip. Sold separately, the hoodie costs \$30. One hundred and eighty-one seniors purchased the hoodie, outnumbering past senior classes. Twenty-four Senior Queens Voc baseball style t-shirts were sold for \$15 each.



Yariel and Debanjali review reports for a meeting.

FBLA: Holiday Helpers

by Luis A. Vasquez

FBLA gives back to the community by spending time with the elderly and disabled. For Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, members of the school’s Future Business Leaders of America chapter went to the Extended Care Facility in Woodside to spend time with the facility’s residents. The number of members varies each time the students visit, but they do the same thing: sing, dance, and read poems. “We danced for about an hour,” said Ngawang Dawa. “I enjoyed spending time with them,” he said. “It’s a great feeling to have a part in making someone’s day better,” said FBLA Vice President Flor Amigon. Anahi Rafael, the FBLA chapter president, believes that these activities help FBLA members learn to deal with others.

FBLA also competes in business-related challenges such as interviewing, presentations, and skills-based competitions in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. The team goes to Rochester to compete in the state competition. The winners at the state level move on to the national competition. To prepare for these competitions FBLA members meet every Tuesday from 4:15pm to 5pm. They discuss upcoming competitions and fundraisers to pay for travel expenses and equipment. Their first fundraiser was a bake sale on Oct. 28. The money was used to purchase hoodies and windbreakers. The officers this year are Anahi, Flor, Ngawang, Maria Martinez, Steven Cortez, and Kelly Ochoa. FBLA is coordinated by Ms. Morgan Thomas and Mr. David, who mentor and guide the students, said Anahi.

June Regents Results

compiled by Franshesca Diaz

Exam	Year	# Reg.	# Took	# Pass	% Passing
Common Core English	2015	377	351	290	82.62 %
	2016	117	43	29	67.44 %
English	2015	680	430	313	72.79 %
	2016	128	20	15	75.00 %
Global History and Geography	2015	487	421	343	81.47 %
	2016	400	342	263	76.90 %
U.S History and Government	2015	583	487	321	65.91 %
	2016	561	466	284	60.94 %
Common Core Algebra	2015	513	422	218	51.66 %
	2016	897	518	323	62.36 %
Algebra	2015	647	269	183	68.03 %
	2016	13	2	0	0.00 %
Common Core Geometry	2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2016	400	297	66	22.22 %
Common Core Algebra II	2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2016	99	96	33	34.38 %
Trigonometry	2015	133	120	43	35.83 %
	2016	107	99	33	33.33 %
Living Environment	2015	460	383	229	59.79 %
	2016	471	401	244	60.85 %
Physics	2015	243	108	33	30.56 %
	2016	217	70	19	27.14 %
Earth Science	2015	333	259	138	53.28 %
	2016	325	250	153	61.20 %
Chemistry	2015	299	147	28	19.05 %
	2016	299	160	47	29.38 %

Carry On with Reading



Ms. Lewis and the book club members are eager to read.

by Derrick Huertas

Book club members are currently reading *Carry On*, by Rainbow Rowell.

So far this year, Ms. Lewis said, the 30 plus members have also read Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children, by Ransom Riggs in October, and Jellicoe Road, by Melina Marchetta in November.

The book club is run by Ms. Lewis, the school librarian. The members meet every Friday during lunch periods. The book club doesn’t just read books, they participate in fundraisers with organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, go on various trips, donate to charity, and watch movies.

Students in the book club engage in discussions about the

book they have read independently. Students read the book during the week and on Friday discuss what they have read. “The book club is a fun environment for readers to expand their knowledge,” said Ms. Lewis.

To join the book club, “students can apply at the beginning of the school year,” Ms. Lewis said. The application is a fairly simple process where a student must complete the ending of a story and be evaluated. Students can only apply in the beginning of the school year with no exceptions of getting in during mid school year. “You must be dedicated to the book club,” said Karla Alvarez.

Members read all genres. Ms. Lewis selects books to read based on national best sellers, but the students vote for which book they

want to read.

Carry On is an interesting book, said Odalis Espinoza. “The romance between the vampire and the main character is similar to the romance found in other books that we’ve read. Besides romance, the theme of abandonment and teen conflict is found in many of the books we read in book club,” she said.

Michelle Rojas, a member of the book club, likes being “able to read all different kinds of books, to talk about them, and share with the book club.” She strongly feels that the book club “improves my English” and strongly recommends joining the book club because students “are able to meet new people, share experiences, and always have a different experience with every book.”

The purpose of the book club is to encourage reading. Ms. Lewis wants to “expose our members to books that they wouldn’t read on their own” and promote books throughout the building to encourage other readers to read as well.

Goals for the end of 2017 are to raise money for charity, post information about books they have read on the bulletin board or on the school website, and “encourage other students in the school community to read as well,” said Ms. Lewis.

The book club members are planning a spring trip.

Saying Goodbye to Former Teachers

by Kate Sosa

Ms. Mitchell, who worked at Queens Voc for the past nine years and ran the Virtual Enterprise firms, and Ms. Nguyen, a math teacher, who worked at Queens Voc for 17 years, retired in June.

Prior to working at Queens Voc, Ms. Mitchell was a vice president of Mitsubishi Bank. She was also a professor at Queensboro Community College, where she taught classes for students of Queens Voc, said Mr. Garcia. In addition to her career as a high school teacher, she also taught adult education in business medical coding. Mr. Mugan, who worked with Ms. Mitchell, said she was “dedicated to all her students.”

Ms. Mitchell took over the operations of the Virtual Enterprise class and ran two VE firms: S.T.A.R., a firm which she started, and DCW. Mr. Garcia, director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, said that under her leadership, Queens Voc’s two VE firms were among the top city schools in record sales. Mr. Garcia said he remembers Ms. Mitchell as a “true team player, who was always coming up with fresh ideas.”

When Ms. Mitchell arrived at the school in September of 2007, she became the advisor of the school’s FBLA chapter. Maria Martinez, a senior, recalls the moment she was heading to the national FBLA competition in Atlanta and Ms. Mitchell went to the airport to wish her good luck.

Ms. Mitchell couldn’t attend to trip because of her retirement. Maria said, “Ms. Mitchell was a great mentor. She always gave me suggestions and guidance in preparing for the competition.”

Mr. Garcia said he hoped to work longer with Ms. Mitchell, but one memory she has left behind he added, is a saying she used, “We’re cooking with gas,” which she said in moments of accomplishment. After years of working at Queens Voc, Ms. Mitchell plans to spend more time with her family and move to California, said Mr. Garcia.

Ms. Nguyen taught math for students in SCEET. Prior to working at Queens Voc, she taught math at a private high school in Chicago. Ms. Nguyen started working at Queens Voc in September of 1999. At the time, she taught Algebra One and Geometry. Ms. Watkins, a teacher who knew Ms. Nguyen well, described her as devoted to her students. “Ms. Nguyen worked really hard to help anybody and everybody, including staff. She loved working here and enjoyed teaching the upper level math courses in her favorite room, 158,” Ms. Watkins said.

Over the development of her career at Queens Voc, Ms. Nguyen taught higher level math courses, such as honors Trigonometry and 12th grade Pre-Calc. One of her former students, senior Brian Guaman, said, “She knew how to teach Algebra Two and Trig effectively, and will be missed.” Mr. Gorman, assistant principal of

the math and science department said she was a very “conscientious teacher to her work and students.” After working for 17 years at Queens Voc, Ms. Nguyen will be remembered as a “thoughtful and enthusiastic teacher to her students,” Mr. Gorman said.

Ms. Watkins, who still shares a close bond with her former colleague, said that Ms. Nguyen’s retirement plans consisted of moving to a home in Florida along the beach, but she is currently spending time with her grandchildren her in New York.

NY Post: QV’s a Hidden Gem

by Jordalin Ortega

Queens Voc was featured in a *New York Post* article on Sep. 17, titled “These are the best city schools no one knows about.” The article, written by Mary Kay Linge, features six schools recommended by the DOE, Insideschools, and by *The Post* itself.

“Hardworking students put in long days at this Long Island City CTE school, which many describe as ‘like a family,’” reads the first line about Queens Voc. Principal Burg said that the quote displays how a student has four years of long days because Queens Voc students work more than students in a comprehensive high school because of their shop classes.

The Post article has been useful. In his room, Mr. Garcia has a large poster of the article that he used at the citywide high

Seniors Manage Their Way Toward Workplace and Personal Success

by Franshesca Diaz

CFM, Career Financial Management, is a class seniors must take and pass in order to graduate with their CTE diploma.

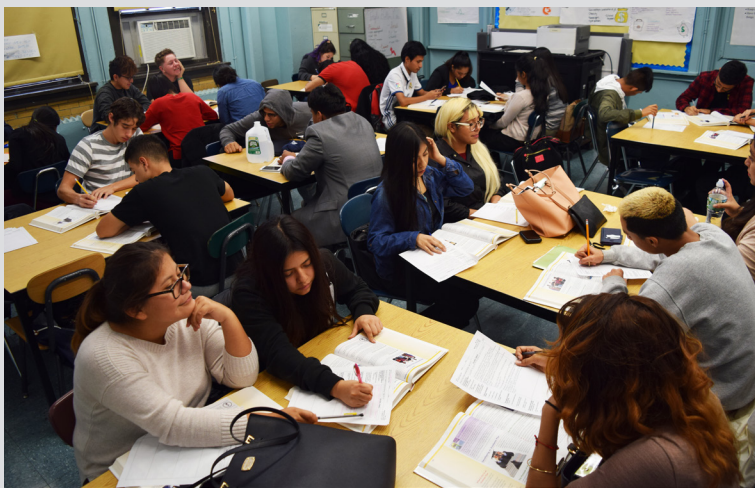
“CFM is extremely important for our students as it provides them with an opportunity to learn about the features of our economy, explore a variety of careers, learn the skills and competencies needed for success in the workplace and, to become financially literate,” said Mr. Garcia, director of the school of entrepreneurial studies.

The objective of the class is to prepare students to become independent and get them ready for a post-secondary education, Mr. Garcia said. According to the class syllabus that Mr. Garcia wrote, students learn how to deal with everyday financial problems, explore careers, learn universal skills needed to be successful citizens and employees, make financial decisions, complete a professional portfolio, understand

different job situations, and manage money.

CFM is taken by seniors in all shop classes. In previous years, seniors majoring in business, cosmetology, and graphic arts were taught CFM by their shop teachers, but this year Mr. Garcia and Ms. Gross teach the CFM class to students in those three majors. Mr. Garcia said he made this change because Ms. Gross is the work-based learning coordinator and it connects with the class. As for the students in other shop classes, CFM is taught by Mr. Rodriguez in C-Tech, Ms. Ramdeo in pre-engineering, Mr. Bowen in EI, and Mr. Rivera in plumbing.

Ms. Gross said the class is important for students to take because they need to be able to think about what they want and be ready for work, and what’s expected of them. Steven Cortes who majors in business said, “It keeps us on track on a personal level.”



Students learn to handle their money responsibly.

Barbering Major to Begin Next Year

by Yariel Ortega

Queens Voc is planning to offer a new barbering shop to freshmen next September. The plan is contingent upon state approval. The barbering shop will be part of SES, which already includes business, cosmetology, and graphic arts majors.

“Freshmen will participate in barbering for six weeks through the exploratory rotations, but only 28 students will be selected for sophomore year,” said Mr. Garcia, assistant principal and SES director. For the first year, Ms. Crosbie, a cosmetology teacher, will teach barbering. “It will be a great opportunity to expand cosmetology and incorporate more males into our field,” she said.

According to Ms. Crosbie, the curriculum includes shaving,

shampooing, facials, and various haircuts.

Eighty-four students are in cosmetology, but if the barbering shop is approved by the state, only 56 will major in cosmetology, said Mr. Garcia.

“There will be only two cosmetology classes and one barbering class per year,” he added. Barbering and cosmetology classes will become more selective. According to Mr. Garcia, students who apply for the barbering major will need an average of 80 or higher, recommendations from teachers, and will then be judged by a committee.

In their senior year, barbering students will take a CFM class that will be combined with the entrepreneurship curriculum to help students launch their own business, said Mr. Garcia.

school fair at Francis Lewis HS in October, and copies of the article were given to parents who viewed the Queens Voc booth. “The article is a recruitment tool that helps to set Queens Voc apart from other schools,” Principal Burg said, “both academically focused and CTE focused.”

The five other schools featured

in *The Post* article are: East Side Community School, Metropolitan Expeditionary School (MELS), Business Technology Early College High School (BTECH), Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science, and Susan E. Wagner High School Performing and Visual Arts Programs.

College Q&A With Ms. K



Ms. Karabelas speaks to Antonio Donato about college.

compiled by Marlin Astudillo

College application season is a very stressful and nerve wracking time for seniors. Ms. Karabelas, the college counselor, has answered some questions that students have about the application process.

Q: What information do we need to fill out our college applications correctly?

A: Students must know the correct spelling of their names, their correct full address, and if they have a Social Security or permanent residence identification number, this number must be correctly written on the application. The seniors who are applying for college must have a list of the schools they want to apply to. Sometimes the applications ask for parents' or guardians' names and occupations, so students should make sure that they have the correct information.

Q: Do you recommend seniors fill out their applications online or on paper?

A: Ninety-eight percent of colleges will have an electronic college application, so the students must apply online. There are a few private colleges that do not have their applications online and require students to fill out a paper application.

Q: How does the financial aid application process differ from the college application process?

A: The financial aid application process and the admission process are more similar than different. Both of these applications are online and require the same information. Students should apply for two financial aid programs: the general FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) and the New York State TAP (tuition assistance program). A lot of students do not know about TAP, but if students do not apply, they can lose up to \$5,000 a year.

Students can find links to the FAFSA application page and other college-related info at queensvoc.org/groups/311.

Seniors' personal information must be correct because errors will cause delays. Whatever is documented on important papers that's exactly how it should be put into the FAFSA and TAP applications. Students must

have their parents' 2015 tax information, because it is the most recent tax return. If students want to be ahead, they should have both of their financial aid applications done by Thanksgiving. They can always go in later and edit, such as adding a school or taking a school out.

Q: Should students who are only applying to CUNY schools still write college essays?

A: Yes. Students should write an essay or personal statement for all schools. It does not matter if it's CUNY or not, they need to write an essay.

Letters of recommendation are very important factors as well. Ninety average students have been rejected from CUNY colleges because there is a lot of competition. Just because it's a CUNY college it does not mean that they will get accepted. The essay is a good opportunity to discuss any shortfall that a student has had. For example, maybe one year a student did not do so well because of personal issues that he or she had to overcome, so the college essay is a really good way to explain what went wrong on the student's transcript. This is why the essays are so important.

Q: Do you recommend students apply directly to a four-year school?

A: Not necessarily. It does depend on many factors, one being the GPA (grade point average). If a student does not meet the criteria for a four-year college admission or an opportunity program admission to a four-year school then academically speaking, he or she may not be entirely ready for that level of coursework. Students can improve their grades while attending a two-year school and from there transfer to a four-year school.

Q: Should students who are planning to join the union still fill out a college application?

A: Yes, one hundred percent, because students who apply for the union do not find out if they got into the Construction Skills Program until January or February. If they do not get accepted into the program, they are going to have to rush through the college application process. These students will have fewer options; they might only be accepted to a two-year school that can be a long commute from home.

Q: Should students even bother applying for colleges that they know they cannot afford?

A: Yes. Students definitely should because when they are applying for schools they only know what the tuition is and let's just say there is the housing cost, students do not know how much the school will offer them in financial aid. The schools decide how much money they are going to give the students based in part on the financial aid application.

These colleges will take the income of the applicants' parents and the cost of tuition and then calculate what they can offer the student. For example, a student applying to a CUNY school might only be offered \$5,000 because the tuition rates are low. But a student who decides to dorm at a SUNY school can be offered up to \$10,000 because tuition and housing costs are higher. The financial aid is relative to the expense of that school. Seniors also have to factor in the scholarships that they earned. Colleges take their time administering the paperwork, the applicants' will not know the money that schools are offering until April, once they know the amounts then seniors can make a educated decision on where they want to study.

Q: Where can students find help if they do not know how to fill out their applications?

A: One place would be my website; everything that I would tell you, any question I would answer, is there. A resource for college and financial aid help that is there for students 24/7 is Nextgenvest, which accepts questions from students via text message about the college and financial aid application process. This company has helped students file appeals on financial aid awards. Students who get an award from a college but feel like the school has not given them enough money can file for a review. Nextgenvest is very helpful, has no fees, and all students should be taking advantage of it.

Seniors Offer Friendly Advice to Freshmen

compiled by Flor Amigon

Attention freshmen! Seniors have some advice for you:

Have a great high school experience, have fun and do your work. **- Ahmed Khumis**

Join a team and do your own thing. **- Ali Askar**

Try your best and don't take everything too seriously. Just try to have the most fun you can and enjoy your high school experience while it lasts. **- Antonio Donato**

Don't think you're the only one who doesn't feel like you fit in. **- Erick Mathus**

The next three and a half years

Contacts for Clubs and Teams

compiled by Areli Marin Flores

Clubs

Book Club
Cisco Engineers Club
Chess Club
College Now
Construction Skills
Dance Club
FBLA
Gamers Club
Hip Hop Club
Leadership Class
Mouse Squad
QVAMA
RAIN /GSA
Robotics Club
School Newspaper
Senior Yearbook
Senior Class Advisor
Script Ed
SkillsUSA
Student Organization

Advisor

Ms. Lewis
Mr. Valdez
Ms. Dimech
Ms. Ocampo
Mr. Ali
Ms. Vasquez
Ms. Morgan-Thomas
Mr. Muzamali
Ms. Volpe
Mr. Vega
Mr. Valdez
Ms. Ogunka
Ms. Miaoulis
Mr. Ali
Mr. Schimenz
Ms. DeCarlo
Mr. Vega
Ms. Bijesse
Ms. Ramdeo
Mr. Vega

Sports

Fall Teams:

Boys' Bowling
Girls' Bowling
Boys' Soccer
Girls' Soccer
Girls' Volleyball

Coach

Mr. Devaux
Ms. Poltawsky
Mr. Ali
Mr. Yu
Ms. Shimizu

Winter Teams:

Boys' JV Basketball
Boys' Varsity Basketball
Girls' Varsity Basketball
Co-Ed Wrestling

Ms. Karcher
Mr. Maloney
Mr. Devaux
Mr. Zambrotta

Spring Sports Teams:

Boys' Baseball
Girls' Flag Football
Boys' Handball
Girls' Softball

Mr. Schimenz
Mr. Garofano
Mr. Devaux
Ms. Poltawsky

of high school will fly by, before you know it you'll be old and graduating. **- Jailene Ceron**

Try to be involved in school clubs and activities. **- Jason Barros**

Always keep your head up, this is just the beginning for you. Don't let anyone tell you who's boss because you are your own person and remember to never give up. **- Joshua Sanchez**

Take your classes seriously, because there's going to be a time when it's too late for you to go back. **- Juan Espinoza**

Stay focused on school because that's going to affect your future the most. Don't mess up freshmen year because it adds up in senior year. **- Kate Gonzalez**

Work hard in your classes because later on you will appreciate it. **- Kelly Chabla**

Get involved! Join teams. Get to know your teachers for recommendation letters. **- Kelly Ochoa**

You can relax, but don't relax too much because it'll hit you during junior year. **- Laboni Konok**

Focus on school and on yourself only. **- Lisette Fuentes**

Join leadership, be more involved in the school. **- Maria Martinez**

Be careful and be yourself. **- Rebecca Carroscio**

It's a fresh start. Do well in your classes and don't cut classes because later on there are consequences. **- Rina Guallpa**

Freshmen Friday doesn't exist. **- Steven Cortes**

Be open and honest with everyone. **- Suraj Sookdeo**

Freshman year can be tough because you will be surrounded by new places and people but eventually you will adapt and love it here. **- Vallencia Hossain**

Even if it feels like you'll never get out of a bad situation, you will. Just keep pushing through. **- Amber Rivera**

What advice would YOU would give to incoming freshmen?

Write and tell us! Sign your letter and put it in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the main office, or email us at Editor@VocVoice.org

This Place Stinks!



What if you did this to your bathroom at home?
by Victoria Guerrero

One thousand, five hundred sixty three students are limited to just two busted bathrooms. If we are confined to just two bathrooms, shouldn't they at least, be in adequate condition? Instead we are dealing with eight broken faucets and four broken stall doors.

"They're not broken, they're vandalized," said Mrs. Holland, the custodian engineer. Mrs. Holland argues that the custodians are not to blame for our unpleasant bathrooms; it is the students who mistreat and misuse these facilities. According to Mrs. Holland, the custodians' job is "to clean it and make it presentable for morning," however she claims she has taken her job "a step forward" and appointed a custodian to clean and restock the bathrooms midday.

Although Mrs. Holland seems to be taking initiative to improve the maintenance of the bathrooms, she says she is restricted by her budget. Mrs. Holland said that it is expensive to replace parts such as sink knobs that students vandalize and steal. Her workers frequently complain, saying they have walked in on several boys "standing on the sink doing graffiti."

Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of organization and security, said he receives reports of graffiti and vandalism in the bathrooms "seldomly," and when he does, "half of the time" the students are suspended.

Mrs. Holland complained that the bathrooms have become a "hangout spot," but "the mayor does not give me enough money to have a maître d' in the bathrooms," she added.

The Goodwill community based organization that coordinates numerous activities in Queens Voc was kind enough to send Ms. Grant to the school to assist with maintaining order in the hallways and

We need to work toward improving our school facilities.

bathrooms. Ms. Grant sits outside the first floor bathrooms and she has each student who uses the bathroom sign in and out. Mr. Alikakos said that he and the administration have recognized and appreciate Ms. Grant's efforts in assisting in maintaining order.

Although Ms. Grant's efforts are recognized and appreciated, Mrs. Holland said that students "are not even respecting the adult standing out there." The same small groups of students who vandalize the bathrooms are the same ones who disregard Ms. Grant and her efforts. Even with extended efforts from Goodwill, the bathrooms are still vandalized and decorated in student feces and graffiti.

A small percentage of students take advantage of the school's facilities and ruin it for the majority. Worse, what they ruin stays ruined. It's time that we stop pointing fingers and come together to help resolve this ongoing problem.

We need to work toward improving our school facilities. Staff should frequently monitor the facilities and report the vandalism. Students should start speaking up. If you see another student vandalizing the bathrooms or using it as a hang out spot, say something. Report it to a dean or school safety agent. I refuse to let a small group of students vandalize my home and limit me to just two bathrooms; you should too.

Vocational Voice
Queens Vocational & Technical High School

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

Tel 718.937.3010
Fax 718.392.8397

School website:
QueensVoc.org

Online at VocVoice.org

Ms. Melissa Burg
Principal

Mr. Alikakos
AP, Administration

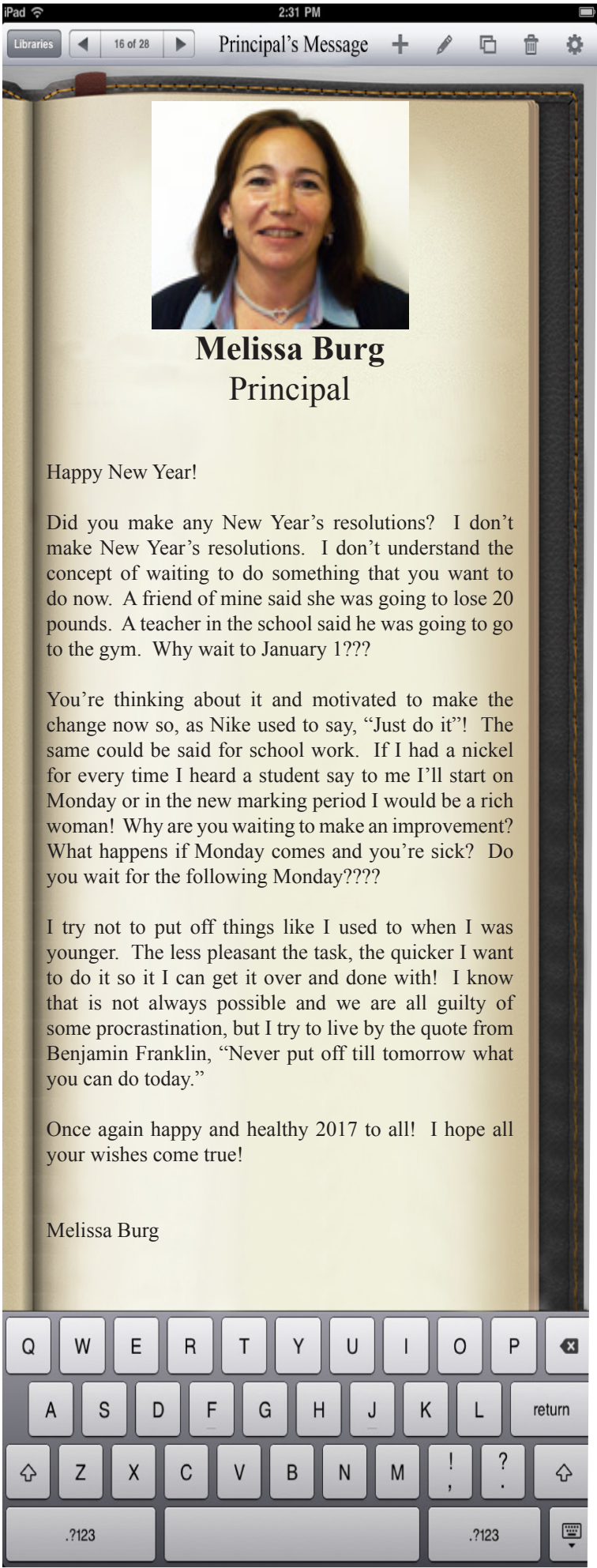
Mr. Rob Schimenz
Advisor

Layout Editors
Jordi Anaya
Johann Astudillo
Ngawang Dawa
Debanjali Dey
Leandro Montero Gamarra
Jordalin Ortega
Lesly Pavon
Anahi Rafael
Kate Sosa
Cristian Vivar

Guest Layout Editors
Danish Bokhari
Mauricio Bustamante
Cindy Carangui
Katerin Coyago
Derek Toohey

Contributors
Flor Amigon
Marlin Astudillo
Benedetto Caraballo
Jamyang Choedrup
Franshesca Diaz
Ashley Guanga
Victoria Guerrero
Odette Hernandez
Derrick Huertas
Evelyn Juarez
Min Woo Lee
Areli Marin Flores
Lisette Moscoso
Jennifer Orduna
Yariel Ortega
Nicole Pineda
Maricarmen Ramirez
Ryan Ramirez
Jaqueline Serrano
Jonnathan Sumba
Kevin Tenempaguay
Luis Angel Vasquez
Jhenifer Villazhannay
Michael Vivar

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

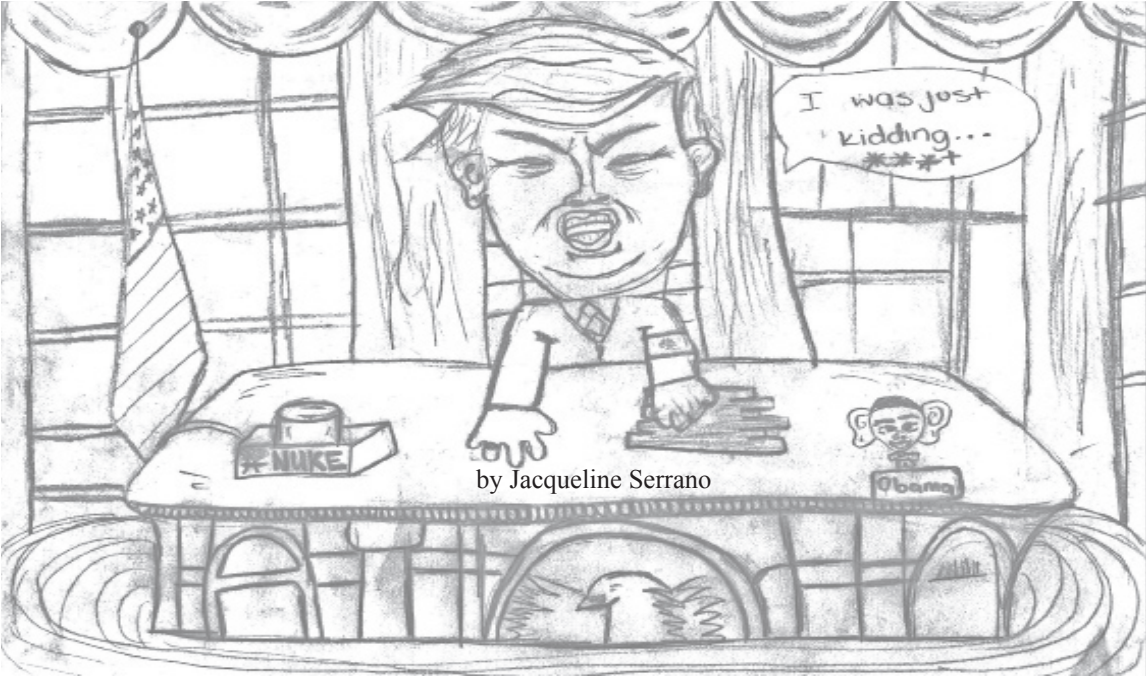


Do you have an opinion about any of the articles in this issue of Vocational Voice? Write and tell us! Be sure to sign your letter and put it in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the main office.



Mr. Schimenz
Main Office

Readers can also write us at Editor@VocVoice.org



by Jacqueline Serrano

Why did Freshmen Apply to QV?

by Jhenifer Villazshannay

Ashley Aragon



I like the programs.

Alexander Guerrero



I don't really know.

Michelle Hernandez



I applied to QV because my brother came and I saw that the programs were good.

Kayla Grant



I applied to QV because of the business program.

Tahmidul Ramim



I came to QV because this school teaches computer and electronic engineering and also it's a pretty good high school.

Brandon Palencia



I had no other choice.

Cristopher Leon



It has graphic arts.

Yvette Chauca



I applied to QV because the programs were good and my cousin came here.

Stephanie Nepomuceno



I wanted to study business.

Edwin DeJesus



I came to QV because my cousin came here and what's interesting is you can choose your shop instead of the school choosing it for you based on your grades.

Kelvin Rodriguez



I came to QV because it has a lot of opportunities.

Gael Tellez



She was coming.
(He said, pointing to Diana Pena.)

Angelin Hernandez



I applied to QV because I like cosmetology.

Jason Urbina



The sports they have here because I'm really interested.

Embarrassing Stories

by Jordi Anaya

"I was sleeping and I woke up when I felt like I had to use the bathroom really bad. I ran to the bathroom and started peeing before I even got to the toilet."

– Luis Toro

"When I was like sixteen, I liked this boy. We were all outside and I was trying to be cool and I was in front of the school where the sidewalk was not leveled. Just as I was walking by I tripped

in front of him and I ended up avoiding him for the rest of the year."

– Ms. Judge

"One time I was hanging out with my sister and our friend. I saw my crush in a store so they were like 'Go get his number, go get his number.' I went through with it and walked into the store. We talked for a while until he finally said, 'Here's my number in case you want to talk sometime.'" I walked outside happy, letting them know that I got his number. I had the biggest smile on my face, and my sister and my friend then asked, 'What's that on your teeth?' I realized that it was oregano right between my teeth, and what makes it worse is that it was during when I had my buck teeth."

– Camila Oviedo

"One time I was walking from the park with my cousin and I was wearing these shorts with no belt on. There was this group of girls behind me and as I was walking all of a sudden my shorts fell down and my boxers were out in the open."

– Anthony Cabrera

"So we were playing volleyball and the team I was going against cheated, but they didn't end up winning because Ms. Bloom told them to go back to their side so we could finish the game. I got really red because I was so mad that I lost even though I kept telling everyone that my team was going to win. I sat in the middle of the court and wasn't letting the game finish because I was mad that we didn't win."

– Bruce Cruz

"It was a cold, winter day, sophomore year. I walked into my EI class and we were going to take a safety test for OSHA certification. The test included picking up a heavy box properly to avoid hurting my back. I went to pick up the box and when I got up, the side of my pants ripped down to my ankles, and I was walking around like that for two periods. Ever since that day people have teased me about my pants ripping."

– Daniel DeJesus

"I was walking to school while it was snowing, and then all of a sudden I fell on a pile of snow. I heard people laugh at me and they didn't even bother helping me up. What was even more funny was that I didn't realize it was my friends."

– Maria Martinez Ramirez

"When I was in college I used to drive to school. One day during the winter time, I was excited that I parked my car next to my crush. It was snowing that day and it snowed the day before so there was ice on the ground. I took one step out of my car and my foot slipped. Half of my torso ended up sliding underneath my car. My crush ran out of his car and had to help me up. He asked me if I was okay and I said yes. I ended up not going to class that day because it was the most embarrassing thing that happened to me."

– Ms. D'Astolfo

Students' Corny Pick-Up Lines

by Jamyang Choedrup

"I forgot my number, can I have yours?"

– Israel Valencia

"Did it hurt when you fell from heaven?"

– Kate Gonzalez

"Tie your shoe laces, I don't want you falling for someone else."

– Andy Lema

"Sorry, I can't hold on...I've fallen for you."

– Robert Hanft

"I have to show you the prettiest girl I've ever seen." (Show her your phone with front cam on.)

– Juan Espinoza

"Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?"

– Antonio Donato

"Feel my shirt. You know what it's made out of? Boyfriend material."

– Luis A. Vasquez

"Well here I am. What are your two wishes?"

– Elisa Calderon

"Know what's on the menu? Me N U."

– Cindy Sewlochan

"I'll give you a kiss. If you don't like it, you can give it back."

– Ahmed Khamis

"Are you a beaver? Cause dam!"

– Ali Askar

"Is your name Wi-Fi? 'Cause I'm feeling a connection."

– Franchesca Diaz

"Are you religious? Because you're the answer to all my prayers."

– Richard Calderon

"I'm not drunk; I'm just intoxicated by you."

– Jamie Somoza

"Do you have a Band-Aid? Because I just scraped my knee falling for you."

– Ronald Calle

Who's the Teacher?

by Nicole Pineda

Teacher 1:

- Drummer of a band
- Grew up on a farm in CT
- Was a camp counselor for 17 years

Teacher 2:

- From Philadelphia
- Used to work in a museum
- Has known her husband since they were 18

Teacher 3:

- Lives in Astoria
- Loves chocolate gelato
- Real estate agent

Teacher 4:

- Loves hip-hop, jazz, and zumba
- Takes boxing classes
- Worked at restaurant
- NY Mets fan

Teacher 5:

- Romanian
- Loves computer strategy games
- Escaped from communism

Teacher 6

- Has been to Egypt
- Bags were stolen on a train in Italy
- Loves to bake

Answers:

1. Teacher 1 (E)
2. Teacher 2 (M)
3. Teacher 3 (E)
4. Teacher 4 (M)
5. Teacher 5 (E)
6. Teacher 6 (M)

Inquiring Photographer

compiled by Cristian Vivar

We asked fellow students, “If you could have the answer to any question, what question would you ask?”



Maria Astudillo



Ilda Limon



Maria Quiroz



Camila Oviedo



Odalis Espinoza

How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?

On what day will I get married?



Brian Guaman



David Romero

What is the meaning of life?

How is a time machine that can travel both to the past and future built?



Lupe Solano



Andreas Demetriou



Adryan Santos

What am I going to be doing ten years from now?

Do humans exist to destroy or to innovate?

Why are there so many wars in the world?

Horoscopes

by Lisette Moscoso

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You usually keep your feelings to yourself, keeping yourself isolated. You are currently in a tough situation and keeping to yourself won't help. Talk it through with someone trustworthy and let out your true feelings. Only then will you feel at ease to take control over this situation and confront them.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Don't limit yourself to your current routine. It's time for a change and it's coming soon. Make new friends, think differently, and open yourself up to something new. This will lead you to an unexpected path that will change your life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Responsibilities! You have so many responsibilities! You're in a stressful time right now. You currently have a full plate of tasks. Try to catch up with it all. It will be very beneficial in the long run.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Communication is the key to prosper in life. This is something you lack. Don't let your shyness take control. Get out of your comfort zone and step up to new challenges. This will lead you to a new take on life.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

You feel as though you're constantly feeling shut down. Rise up and don't be afraid of criticism. This will help you be confident. Not only will you improve but you will realize that

it was the key to a better version of you.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Keep your mind focused on what's important. You have a goal that you have to accomplish for yourself; do not let others derail you. Misjudgment will cause you to jump to conclusions and distract you. Keep your mind at ease. Only then will you meet your goal.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You're in a state of confusion right now. You are unsure what to do and you need answers. Pay attention to details. This will have your mind clear and your answers will come to you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Stop reliving your past and look toward the future. You are reconsidering your past decisions and it is bringing negativity to your life. These decisions were already made and have led you to where you are now. You are a born leader do not let the past dwell on you.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You've always been a confident person. Don't let anything get in your way, especially now that you are confronted with many obstacles. Stand up for yourself and express your true feelings. Talking about your feelings will reveal purpose in life.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

A caring person is what everyone sees you as. Don't let people take advantage of that. Have your mind set on those

who want the best of you. Those who mean you harm will show themselves and you will be able to remove them from your life.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You are under a tremendous amount of stress. This is all going to change because of upcoming of news and opportunities. This will lead to a new path of prosperity. Just keep your eye out for this opportunity because you might just miss it.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 24)

You are a fun and caring person even if you don't think you are. Open up to new people, make new friends, and you'll see you're wrong. A friend is exactly what you need because there is some trouble headed your way. You will need a friend to talk to. But don't worry, you'll get through it and there will be a nice surprise in the end.

Did You Know?

compiled by
by Benedetto Caraballo

Question: What is something people don't know about your club or team?

Annual Talent Show: “Most people don't know that there is an audition time period.” – Mr. Vega
Arista: “Arista students need to have a 95 average.” – Mrs. Basirico
Book Club: “Book Club is held every Friday during lunch periods 5-8.” – Ms. Lewis
Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball: “The JV team won its first playoff game last year in history of the school.” – Ms. Karcher

Boys' Varsity Baseball: “We participate in community service projects alongside Major League Baseball players.” – Mr. Schimenz

Boys' Varsity Basketball: “We don't take freshmen or sophomores into varsity because we have a junior varsity team for them.” – Mr. Maloney

Boys' Varsity Bowling: “The boys' bowling team was all rookies this season.” – Mr. Devaux

Boys' Varsity Handball: “I've been coaching the varsity handball team for four years.” – Mr. Devaux

Boys' Varsity Soccer: “New players that want to join the team need to know that there is a difference between playing high school soccer and playing in a club or street soccer.” – Mr. Ali
Boys' Varsity Wrestling: “The wrestling coach doesn't expect the kids to do any workout he couldn't do himself.” – Mr. Zambrotta

Chess Club: “Chess Club meets on Wednesdays, periods 10 and 11.” – Ms. Dimech

Cisco: “We try to compete in four competitions: Cyber Patriot, SkillsUSA, Net Riders, and FBLA.” – Mr. Valdez

College Now: “College Now classes can save you thousands of dollars.” – Ms. Ocampo

Construction Skills: “Construction Skills is a pathway to enter the union after you graduate.” – Mr. Ali

Cosmo Clinic: “Students and teachers come in during free periods but students must show their programs. Additionally, students and teachers can come on Mon. and Wed. period 9.” – Mrs. Quartuccio

Dance Team: “There is an audition in order to make the team.” – Ms. Vasquez

FBLA: “Our competitions are very similar to the ones in SkillsUSA.” – Mr. David

Gamers Club: “We play video games, board games, anyone is welcome to join, and starting

December tournaments will be held. The club is very democratic; we take a vote on which games to play.” – Mr. Muzamali

Girls' Varsity Basketball: “We made the playoffs the last nine years straight.” – Mr. Devaux

Girls' Varsity Bowling: “Last season we were the only Queens team to make it to the quarter finals.” – Ms. Poltawsky

Girls' Varsity Flag Football: “Since we've been an active team, which was the past five years, we have made the playoffs every year.” – Mr. Garofano

Girls' Varsity Soccer: “We value winning and having fun on the same level.” – Mr. Yu

Girls' Varsity Softball: “We made the playoffs two years in a row, with last year being in a new division.” – Ms. Poltawsky

Girls' Varsity Volleyball: “Last year was the first time they had a 6-2 rotation.” – Ms. Shimizu

GSA: “It's a student run club; they plan activities, meetings, and discussion topics.” – Ms. Miaoulis

Robotics: “It's open to all students in the building, regardless of their major in the school.” – Mr. Ali

School Newspaper: “We used to lay-out the newspaper by printing the articles in columns and gluing them to boards. Since 2005 we've been laying-out the papers digitally.” – Mr. Schimenz

ScriptEd: “It's held Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6pm in room 454.” – Ms. Zagada

SkillsUSA: “It's held Wednesdays and Thursdays after period 10 in room 346.” – Ms. Ramdeo

Yearbook: “Yearbook's best event is Oscar night. Seniors should not miss out” – Ms. DeCarlo

Did you know?
You don't have to be in journalism to write for the school newspaper. See Mr. Schimenz in room 143 if you're interested.

Freshmen’s First Impressions

compiled by Lisette Moscoso

Questions:

- 1. Why did you choose Queens Voc?
- 2. What is your favorite class so far? Why?
- 3. What was your first impression of Queens Voc on the first day of school?
- 4. Do you know what major you’ll choose? If so which?
- 5. Are you interested in any sport or club? Which?
- 6. What is your least favorite thing about Queens Voc?

Andy Moran



- 1. This school has a lot of opportunities.
- 2. English, because it’s interesting and I like Mr. Elfreich.
- 3. The teachers are good.
- 4. I might choose plumbing.
- 5. I’m already in the baseball team.
- 6. Nothing, I like the school.

Maria Astudillo



- 1. It has really interesting programs. My cousin recommended it also.
- 2. Global 1, because history is interesting and Mrs. Wilson is a good teacher.
- 3. It is a big school and I didn’t know anyone.
- 4. Not sure yet.
- 5. I’m interested in leadership and book club they seem interesting.
- 6. It has too many students. It makes it harder to get to class.

Elmer Martinez



- 1. I like the plumbing and electrical installation programs.
- 2. English, because I like Mr. Samuelson.
- 3. This year is going to be a challenge.
- 4. Electrical installation, because I can see it as my future.
- 5. Not any in this school.
- 6. I don’t like going school early.

Joseph Balbuena



- 1. The classes here are nice and I like the engineering program.
- 2. Global 1, because I like to learn about the past.
- 3. It’s a good school, I like it.
- 4. Pre-engineering, because I want to be an engineer when I grow up.
- 5. I want to play in the soccer team.
- 6. My least favorite thing is that the school is small it should be bigger.

Angelín Hernandez



- 1. I chose Queens Voc because I like the cosmetology program and it would be a jump-start for college.
- 2. Algebra because it’s easy for me.
- 3. It’s cold and it’s really packed for a small building.
- 4. Cosmetology, because I want to do that as a career.
- 5. I’m already in the Volleyball team. I’m also interested in basketball and softball.
- 6. I don’t like how we get out late.

Janira Calle



- 1. The shop classes are nice and they give us certifications and licenses.
- 2. English, because Mr. Samuelson teaches us many techniques.
- 3. The rules here are stricter than my middle school.
- 4. Cosmetology, because it seems interesting.
- 5. Basketball, I like playing it.
- 6. I would want to change my schedule.

Deangelo Castro



- 1. The school had good ratings.
- 2. Gym, because it allows me to socialize.
- 3. I wasn’t nervous. I just wanted to make new friends.
- 4. Cosmetology, because it seems interesting.
- 5. I’m interested in playing basketball.
- 6. The transition to class. There

Bryan Garces



- 1. It has everything I would want to study, the programs are good.
- 2. Math, because it helps me.
- 3. That this school year is going to be hard.
- 4. Not sure yet.
- 5. Yes I’m interested in baseball and soccer.
- 6. Finding my way to class because there are too many people.

Melanie Gonzalez



- 1. The cosmetology program and also my guidance counselor in my middle school recommended this school.
- 2. Cosmetology, because I can do hands on work and it’s fun.
- 3. I was scared, because I was in my old school for 9 years so it was a new change.
- 4. I’m going to choose cosmetology.
- 5. I’m interested in leadership because in my old school we did projects with my friends so it’s similar.
- 6. I don’t like my schedule because I leave at 4:15.

Tongue Twisters

compiled by Debanjali Dey

We asked our fellow students for their best tongue twisters. These were the best they could come up with:

I swapped my Irish wristwatch for my Swiss wristwatch.

- Sangay Gyaphal

Three grey geese in a green grass grazing. Grey were the geese and green was the grazing.

- Yasmin Flores

I saw Susie sitting in a shoe shine shop. Where she sits she shines, where she shines she sits.

- Cindy Sewlochan

The thirty-three thieves thought that they thrilled the throne throughout Thursday.

- Maya Kenawy

Six sleek swans swam swiftly southwards.

- Jason Barros

How many cookies could a good cook if a good cook could cook cookies? A good cook could cook as many cookies as a good cook who could cook cookies.

- Paul Palacios

She saw Sherif’s shoes on the sofa. But was she so sure she saw Sherif’s shoes on the sofa?

- Ronald Calle

Five fuzzy French frogs frolicked through the fields in France.

- Laboni Konok

Thirty-three thousand people think that Thursday is their thirtieth birthday.

- Ilia Goro

You know New York. You need New York. You know you need unique New York.

- Jaskaran Singh

SAY WHAT?!

compiled by Ben Caraballo

“Can I marry you?”

– Ms. Ramdeo

We asked some staff members: What is the craziest or funniest thing a student ever told you?

“It’s not mine miss, I’m holding it for someone.”

– Ms. Burg

“You need to change the lateness policy.”

– Mr. Hemlall, the school’s machinist.

“I want to kill myself.”

– Mr. Rivera

“Will you go to prom with me?”

– Ms. Volpe

“Damn look at you ma.”

– Ms. Kavral

“You are an idiot.”

– Mr. Ali

“Yo swag wore mad bling yo.”

– Mr. Elfreich

“Miss you know I have a kid.”

– Ms. Ogunka

“Do you have a sewing kit?”

– Ms. Poltawsky

“I’m going to marry your daughter.”

– Ms. Karcher

“Is that your daughter?” (Referring to another student in the school.)

– Mr. Devaux

“I wasn’t able to do my homework because my grandma passed away.”

– Ms. Rejalaga

“My new name is jellyfam chedda.”

– Ms. Shimizu

Winter Word Scramble

by Ashley Guanga

Directions: Unscramble each word.

- 1. ATEH _____
- 2. ICRATC _____
- 3. UYCLDO _____
- 4. EOZFNR _____
- 5. CKJEAT _____
- 6. ECICLI _____
- 7. ERVNEGEER _____
- 8. AOTFOLBL _____
- 9. ONWS _____
- 10. ARFLCIEEP _____

Answers:

1. ELEVEN 2. FRODO 3. SNOW 4. BEHOLD
5. HEAT 6. ARTS 7. CLOUT 8. FRODO 9. JACKET 10. ICE

Student Art

compiled by Maricarmen Ramirez

Maya Kenawy



Maya Kenawy, a sophomore, etched her way through the black scratchboard using hatching, double hatching and stippling technique she learned Ms. Volpe’s class. After two weeks of dedicated work, Maya created a wolf-like image, named “The Wolf.” Maya enjoys art class because “I let out the inner me through my art.”

Odalys Garcia



Odalys Garcia, a freshman, created a piece in one and a half weeks, using the watercolor skills Ms. Miaoulis taught her. “The project was to create a portrait that represented me,” she said. Odalys painted a rose in a bottle and makeup next to it. Odalys finds joy in her art because “it is a way to release stress,” and she has fun doing it.

Kimberly Maldonado



Kimberly Maldonado, a senior, did not only create one cup design for the Starbucks competition, she made three. The first one took two to three days and the rest took only a day. She used watercolor, sharpies, and even a bit of nail polish for her cup. Kimberly didn’t have any difficulties but she certainly had fun.

Tsheran Sherpa



Tsheran Sherpa, a junior, designed his representation of New York in Ms. Volpe’s first period class. He chose to use a rat, a dog, and the Statue of Liberty because, he said, everyone can connect these three elements to New York.



Coach Z and his wrestlers had one of their best days ever.

Wrestling Guest Commentary

by Coach Zambrotta

On Saturday Jan. 7, the wrestling team made its first appearance at the Martin Luther School Invitational Tournament.

While the team was unable to fill all 15 weight classes, eight members of the team braved the snowy travel conditions and made their way to the school in Maspeth, Queens, for a full day of wrestling.

Students from nine public and private schools from various leagues throughout the city and greater New York Metropolitan area participated in the tournament.

The tournament allowed one representative from each of the 15 different weight classes and two additional wrestlers for a total of up to 17 wrestlers from each participating school.

Over the course of the day the Queens Voc wrestlers made a name for themselves. They demonstrated good listening skills during matches to make the necessary on mat adjustments to outperform many of their opponents. While off the mat they assisted each other in preparing for matches and scouting their upcoming competition.

By the completion of the tournament, six of them won individual medals: Adriel Arias took the Bronze Medal in the 108lb weight class, Angelo Sinchi won the Gold Medal in the 147lb weight class, Kevin Tenempaguay took fourth place in the 154lb class, Cuahuttemo Cedamano took the Silver Medal in the 154lb weight class, Min Woo Lee took the Bronze for the 162lb weight class, and Richard Martinez won the Gold Medal for the 172lb weight class. Richard also won the Most Falls in Least Amount of Time Award with three pins in just over minutes, the first time a Queens Voc athlete has ever won such an award.

Also representing the team were Marcin Swaltek, who wrestled in the 122lb weight class, and Michael Minchala in the 134lb weight class. Marcin and Michael faced opponents with multiple years of wrestling experience, in contrast to these first year athletes. On the sidelines were Diego Abreu (147), Darwin Mateo (154), and William Teyuca

(184), who assisted in warming up athletes, video recording matches, and coaching teammates.

The efforts of these athletes on and off the mat resulted in the team achieving another milestone for the Queens Voc wrestling program. Wrestling tournaments are scored using a team points system. Every match won an individual wrestler earns their team points. Later rounds such as medal matches are worth more points than early round matches. The further individuals progress in the tournament the more points their team will amass. Despite only having eight of the possible 17 spots filled, the Queens Voc team took third place, earning the team a spot on the podium. This was Queens Voc’s highest combined team total score at a tournament ever.

Despite having multiple Queens Voc athletes on the ballot for Best Wrestler of the Tournament, each came up a few votes short. The teams’ coaches agreed that if there were a Best Match of the Day it would have been awarded to Min Woo Lee. After falling behind in the first round, he fought his way back to being down 3-2 with 30 seconds left in the third period. Min Woo worked to score an escape with 15

second left, which tied the match and sent it into overtime. After a scoreless first OT period, Lee won the coin flip and chose to start the first of two 30 second overtime periods in the bottom position. At the sound of the whistle, he scored a quick two-point reverse and then turned his opponent to his back for another three points. Lee was up 8-3 going into the final OT period. With only 30 seconds to make a comeback, his opponent was unable to recover. As the match progressed, the entire gymnasium became fixated with the intensity of the match, with the athletes, coaches, referees and spectators watching the match unfold. At the end, both athletes were given a warm ovation for their efforts on the mat as there really was no loser in that epic clash of warriors.

Every Queens Voc athlete in attendance wrestled his heart out. That’s all I ever expect of them. Their dedication over the course of the season was exemplified by the awards the team took home. I hope the efforts they made that day continue throughout the rest of the season and help reestablish the Queens Voc wrestling program as a force to be reckoned with for years to come.

After the awards ceremony, we packed up our equipment and exited the building to a snowy Saturday afternoon. It was a good day to be a Queens Voc wrestler and great day to be their coach. I could not have been more proud of the team!



The awards QV took home from the January tourney.

JV BB Hits a Dry Spell

by Benedetto Caraballo

The boys JV basketball team has had a rough start to the season. After their previous season going 9-1, they are 0-4, in last place in their division, hoping to turn things around.

Ms. Karcher, the JV basketball coach, still has high hopes and a lot of confidence in the team. “It obviously needs to be better, it can be better. We struggled and we are improving, and as long as we continue to improve that’s all that really matters.” she said.

“We had a lot of issues with eligibility and a lack of ball handlers who can handle the other team’s defenses. Now, we have our ball handlers eligible. From first game until now, we had two close games. We came very close to winning last game and it was well played.”

One of the leaders on the JV basketball team, sophomore

William Viera, said to improve, “We’ve got to fix our attitude and stop playing around in practice.”

The starters on the JV team are Inderpreet Banait, Oji Chiemerie, Joshua Hernandez, Kevin Tlapanco, and William Viera.

According to PSAL.org, Joshua Hernandez is their leading scorer, averaging 17.25 points and 4.75 rebounds a game. Coach Karcher said, “Joshua Hernandez has been our main player. He is a quiet kind of leader, but he has been dominant, scoring points and leading the defense.”

Other players on the team are: Kaine Denis, Jamaine Grant, Izarius Harris, Muamer Ljesnjanin, Giuseppe Pennolino, Bryan Torres, and Jason Urbina.

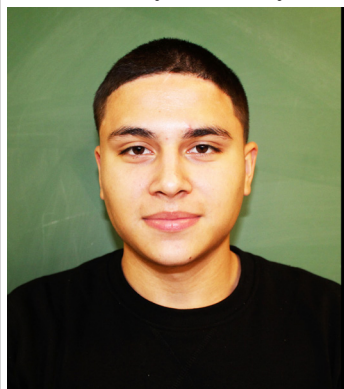
The team is comprised of three freshmen and nine sophomores, three of whom are veterans.

William said he believes that they can turn it around.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

compiled by Cristian Vivar

Anthony Asitimbay



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Anthony is a very aggressive striker with a lot of passion for the team. He will be missed next year." - Coach Steward

"Anthony is a great teammate, a great player, and motivates us to do better. He is always the lead during our team chants." - Arda Yazici

Leandro Gamarro (Captain)



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 3

"He doesn't speak much but his voice is heard nice and loud on the field. He always looks to control the pace of the game. He's determined and I hope he keeps that same attitude for college soccer." - Coach Steward

"On the field, Leo is good offensively and defensively. Leo was our captain this year and was one of our best players. He deserves to make it pro." - Arda Yazici

Anthony Juca



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 3

"The passion of a tiger runs through his blood. Always fighting for the ball and calling plays." - Coach Steward

"Juca is the first person I met at Voc. On the first day of school he bought me food. He helped me out at tryouts. He has the potential to make it big in soccer. He is a great friend." - John Ortega

Geovanny Velez



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 3

"Very hardworking and professional on and off the field. Always keeps everyone on point." - Coach Steward

"He takes soccer seriously. He is a role model to all of us. He knows when to be funny and when to be serious." - John Ortega

Thai Pham



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"Thai is always up for the challenge and is very focused when deciding what he wanted from his defense." - Coach Steward

"Thai is a very good goalkeeper, sometimes. I hope he makes it as a cop or plays college soccer. He is the clown of the team." - Juninho Juca

Steven Asitimbay (Captain)

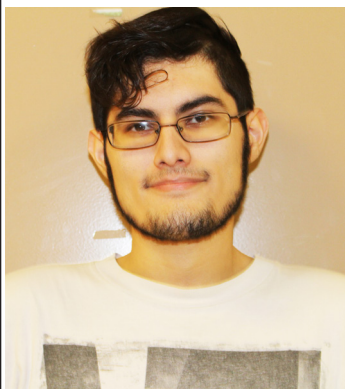


Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 3

"One of the main cores in our defense this year. He is also our captain this year. He has a bright future in college soccer if he continues to work hard." - Coach Steward

"He is a very good defender. Hopefully he gets to play college soccer. He is our captain and he is a role model to me." - Juninho Juca

Eduardo Calero



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"He never quits yet has one of the best hearts of the team. No one can stop this man once he focuses on what he wants. Very bright future if he continues like this." - Coach Steward

"Eduardo absolutely loves the sport and you can tell that he enjoys every minute on the field." - Adrian Santos

Elias Candelario



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Always makes us laugh with his jokes. He kept us together as one, helping us to keep fighting even in difficult times." - Coach Steward

"Elias was always positive and never kept his head down. He's everybody's favorite and all about good vibes." - Lupe Solano

Jamyang Choedrup



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"The brains of the team, always looking and listening on how he can improve his game. Kept working hard for his goal." - Coach Steward

"Jamyang always gave 110 percent effort on the field. He's one of the biggest team players out there." - Max Romero

Cristian Vivar



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 4

"Always cracking jokes with the team but when it was time for business, he was more than ready. Kept pushing himself past his limit." - Coach Steward

"Even though Cris is super slow, he makes up for that with his solid defense, quick thinking, and great vision. He dribbles the ball in a way that works for him. He is always able to get the job done." - Richard Calderon

Bruce Cruz



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"He's always late but always ready to put everything he had on the line. Motivated others to do well and pushed them past their limits to reach new heights." - Coach Steward

"Bruce would always try to make the best out of a bad situation with his fun personality." - Lupe Solano

Jefferson Espinoza



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Quiet, but determined to do anything to get the job done." - Coach Steward

"I don't know Jefferson that well but while we played on the team, he helped and always gave his all." - Ociel Solano

Andres Saenz



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"A man on a journey, always looking to improve in every aspect of the game. He never gave up on himself and his teammates." - Coach Steward

"Andres works hard. He has talent and if he keeps working hard, one day he'll be better than me." - Adrian Santos

Richard Calderon



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"From a fan to a player, he knew what it meant to be a Tiger early from his brother's time on the team. Always pushed others to do better and gave 150% on everything." - Coach Steward

"He's a very good friend and a trustworthy one at that, we had fun this season on the soccer team and I hope we can keep in touch after he graduates." - Ociel Solano

Jonathan Bermejo



Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"He patient and waits for the moment in the game to shine and come up big for the team." - Coach Steward

"He's proven to all of us that size doesn't matter, it's all about the amount of hustle you put into the game." - Steven Asitimbay

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

Ziaire Morgan

Girls' Volleyball
Years on Team: 2

"She's become a strong middle hitter and blocker. It is her second year on the team"

- Coach Shimizu

"Zaire helps out the starting team a lot. During practice, I love that she takes time to help out those that struggle."

- Dicensia Minchala

Daisy Sucuzhanay

Girls' Volleyball
Years on Team: 1

"It is her 1st year on the team. She is very helpful and always wants to learn and improve."

- Coach Shimizu

"She is super nice and always gives motivation when people do good. She encourages me a lot. Although she's new in the team, she fits in well."

- Celine Santos

Jaqueline Rivera

Girls' Volleyball
Years on team: 3

"This is her third year on the team. She stepped up to be a middle hitter."

- Coach Shimizu

"She is really sweet, cheers us on when we serve, and helps us out when we need the help. She's good at blocking and she lends me knee pads, and I give her a lot of love for that."

- Sofia Avila

Denise Perez Escobar

Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Denise is a first year player and she is already on the A-team. Wish she would have joined earlier."

- Coach Poltawsky

"Denise always told the girls that they are better than they think they are. She would always help out the team."

- Samara Deokiesingh

Montana Stevens

Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 2

"This is her second year on the team. She is one of the best players on the team."

- Coach Poltawsky

"Montana is a very skillful player. She was always so devoted to the game and always had outstanding results."

- Nathalia Grajales

Tatiana Tobon

Girls' Volleyball
Years on Team: 3

"It is her third year on the team. She stepped up to be an outside hitter."

- Coach Shimizu

"She is outgoing, determined, and helpful both outside of the team and inside of the team. She is the sweetest of all the girls. She has been playing all right. She keeps the team on task. She helps get us out of the way of Coach Shimizu's wrath."

- Dicensia Minchala

Lisette Moscoso

Girls' Volleyball
Years on Team: 1

"Even though she is a first year player and a senior, she is able to learn quickly."

- Coach Shimizu

"She's always kind, funny, and very motivational. Both of us are new to the team but she still encourages me a lot. We have our own way of talking to each other. She is such a sweetheart and extremely caring."

- Sydney Barreto

Samara Deokiesingh

Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Samara is a new addition to the team. She has great energy and I wish she had joined earlier."

- Coach Poltawsky

"Samara is a great motivator and an inspiration to me. She is full of great energy and is always positive."

- Nathalia Grajales

Amber Rivera (Captain)

Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 2

"She is a veteran player and also the captain of the team. She is very competitive and keeps the team together."

- Coach Poltawsky

"Amber is a very cheerful captain. She is very helpful and always encouraged us to do our best."

- Nathalia Grajales

Anthony Cabrera

Boys' Bowling
Years on Team: 1

"Anthony is a first year player and member of the A-team. Anthony is a good athlete and he has improved a lot during his short time on the team."

- Coach Devaux

"Anthony's pep talks and cheerful demeanor always succeed to bring the team together during bad games."

- Ilia Goro

Jacqueline Serrano

Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 2

"This is her second year on the team. She has improved since last year and hopefully she improves as the season progresses."

- Coach Poltawsky

"Jacqueline is always energetic during games. No matter what she is always cheering the girls on."

- Nathalia Grajales

Valeria Murillo

Girls' Volleyball
Years on team: 2

"It is her second year on the team. She is a player that every coach would want."

- Coach Shimizu

"She's smart and she's very athletic. She's a very good teammate. She plays really well and always puts in effort."

- Angelin Hernandez

Stephanie Young (Captain)

Girls' Volleyball
Years on team: 3

"She is a great captain who helps motivate and push her teammates."

- Coach Shimizu

"She is the captain of our team. She is very motivational and is an amazing player. She helps you when you are in doubt and she is very caring. She is a wonderful player and I have a lot of love for her."

- Valerie Sanchez

Areli Marin-Flores

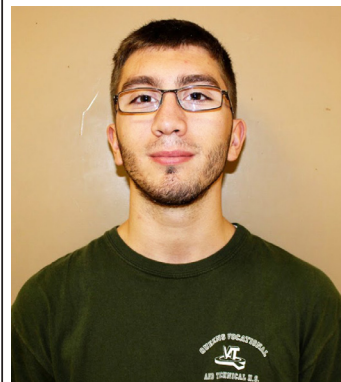
Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Areli is very dedicated and is also a new addition to the team. I wish she would have joined earlier."

- Coach Poltawsky

"She is always supportive and showed enthusiasm."

- Jacqueline Serrano

Ilia Goro

Boys' Bowling
Years on Team: 1

"He is a hard worker and a good teammate. He has been making steady improvements."

- Coach Devaux

"Ilia is a great bowler. He always tries his best and works hard. He eventually learned how to hook the ball."

- Anthony Cabrera

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

Odalis Espinoza



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Odalis is our rock in defense and super reliable on the field. She is able to clearly send instructions to the whole defense."
- Coach Yu

"She is a strong center defense and I enjoyed every second we played on the field together. She helped me a lot and motivated me to be on the team."
- Myriam Avila

Kate Sosa (Captain)



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Kate is my favorite captain, she thinks about the whole team and follows directions."
- Coach Yu

"Kate is the best on the team. She is a really good captain. She plays calmly and controls the game while on the field. She also scores a lot."
- Lesley Gomez

Chelsa Calle



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"Chelsa improved drastically and plays smart, learning from her mistakes and plays where I need her to."
- Coach Yu

"She is a great defender and she isn't afraid to defend any girl that comes her way. That always helps her out a lot. I never doubt that she is giving her absolute best in every game."
- Jessica Calleja

Ilda Limon (Captain)



Girls' Soccer Varsity
Years on Team: 2

"Our energizer bunny on and off the field, grade A captain."
- Coach Yu

"Ilda is one of the best in our team. She motivates the defense to do their job. She has a huge skill set. She scores often at our games."
- Lesley Gomez

Rina Gualpa



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"Rina is our team mom looking out for all our players and she has a very positive attitude."
- Coach Yu

"Rina is super fun to be around. She always tries her best when she's out on the field defending."
- Chelsa Calle

Brenda Grande



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Brenda has a happy-go-lucky feel when she plays, you see the joy of a child when she is on the field."
- Coach Yu

"She's a good team player and she is very dedicated. She's always cooperative and puts in work."
- Odalis Espinoza

Rosita Cortez



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"VIP is just that for our team, she is at every game and every practice, super dependable and we have so much fun with her."
- Coach Yu

"Rosita is super nice and has a really nice smile. She has really good defensive skills."
- Ana Victorino

Kathy Martos



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Kathy puts in work on the field and off, she almost yells more than me, and that's a good thing."
- Coach Yu

"Kathy is a fighter and keeps trying no matter what. She communicates a lot in games."
- Ana Victorino

Lesly Pavon



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"Lesly did well for her first year on the team. She participated in so many of our activities and was proactive."
- Coach Yu

"Lesly is very patient and kind. She always looks at the good side of everything. I'm glad that I got to know her better while being in the team together."
- Myriam Avila

Carol Morelos



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Carol always has a smile on her face and her positivity has spread to other players--and she keeps improving!"
- Coach Yu

"Carol is funny and caring both on and off the field. She encourages all our players to do their best and to not give up."
- Gabriela Sanchez

Ana Victorino



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Banana is an awesome player who wants to win as much as I do. Her tank never runs out."
- Coach Yu

"Ana is a motivated player. She helps on the field and gives advice to us. Sometimes she's too nice and always apologizes to the team for no reason."
- Gabriela Sanchez

Heidi Saquipulla



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Heidi is super coachable and never complains, when her attitude and play gets rewarded on the field I am super happy for her."
- Coach Yu

"Heidi was always positive both in and out of the field. She always tries her best in every game and did her best. She is a great player."
- Chelsa Calle

Vielka Alonzo



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"Who knew this girl who couldn't kick a ball right in the beginning could be our top scorer? I knew it from day one in March with her enthusiasm and dedication."
- Coach Yu

"Vielka never gives up. She always keeps trying no matter what happens. She is my motivation to keep trying."
- Alexis Guerrero

Myriam Avila



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 1

"Abby has been a great addition to our team this year it wouldn't be the same without her. Her aggression on the field and practices were terrific for our team."
- Coach Yu

"Be aggressive and concentrate on yourself. Keep practicing and never give up."
- Jecklisa Samora

Maria Quiroz



Girls' Varsity Soccer
Years on Team: 2

"Maria has improved as a player and as a person. She now believes and trusts her teammates more, thus leading to our good performances. She has technical skills of a top player in the city."
- Coach Yu

"Maria is a role model who inspires and motivates us, and pushes us to do better. She has good soccer skills and good sportsmanship. I consider her to be one of my idols, she motivates me to do better."
- Vielka Alonzo

Soccer Shocker: Boys fail to make playoffs

continued from back page



This was an unusual season for Coach Ali.

The leading scorers this season were Anthony Asitimbay, with five goals, and Adrian Santos with four goals. The team had three shutouts among the five wins and one draw, which finished 0-0.

The team struggled in the beginning of the season, losing their first three games of the season. Even after the three losses, senior Andres Saenz said that although the results were disappointing, the boys still believed that they could do better as the season progressed.

The Tigers went on to win five times in the next eight games. Senior Eduardo Calero said, "With one game left, we believed that we would win that game

and qualify for the playoffs." The game, however, ended in defeat for the Tigers, who lost to LIC 3-2. Co-Captain Steven Asitimbay said, "There wasn't that much teamwork going on so we couldn't get the result in the end that would have made us qualify for the playoffs." Co-Captain Leandro Gamarra Montero said, "Throughout the whole season, everyone showed determination and dedication. We should have easily made it into the playoffs, but oh well, that's how soccer is."

There were thirty-six players on the roster: freshmen Leonel Bravo, Rodrigo Cestoni, Brian Fructuoso, Juninho Juca, and John Ortega; sophomores Steven Campos, Kenin Gonzalez, Junior Guaman, Roberth Inga, Jefferson Llanos, Max Romero, and Edison Tenelema; juniors Christian Alvarez, Henry Cortes, Jesus Cruz, Junior Penaloza, Diego Rodriguez, Adrian Santos, Guadalupe Solano, Ociel Solano, Christophe Tenecela, and Arda Yazici; seniors Anthony Asitimbay, Steven Asitimbay, Jonathan Bermejo, Richard Calderon, Eduardo Calero, Jamyang Choedrup, Bruce Cruz Astudillo, Jefferson Espinoza, Leandro Gamarra Montero, Anthony Juca, Thai Pham, Andres Saenz, Geovanny Velez, and Cristian Vivar.

Remaining Winter Sports Games

by Jonnathan Sumba

Girls' Varsity Basketball

01/18- Queens HS Complex
@ LIC YMCA Gym
01/20- HS for Construction
01/30- Metropolitan Campus
@ Metropolitan Campus
02/06- Maspeth HS
@ Maspeth HS

Wrestling

01/19- Automotive HS

Boys' JV Basketball

01/19- @ Bryant
01/31- Aviation
02/06- @ Grover Cleveland
02/16- @ Metropolitan Campus
02/28- @ Maspeth HS

Boys' Varsity Basketball

01/17- @ Forest Hills
01/19- Bryant
01/31- @ LIC
02/06- Aviation
02/07- Newton HS
02/09- @ Grover Cleveland

All games are at Queens Voc. unless otherwise listed.

To see the up-to-date sports schedules online, go to PSAL.org



Lady Tigers have a winning record at mid-season.

Girls' Basketball Having "An Up & Down Season"

by Johann Astudillo

The girls' varsity basketball team is currently in fifth place in their division, with a record of four wins and four losses so far in the season.

The Lady Tigers started off the season with two wins in a row, including a victory over Aviation, 64-32.

The team went on to lose their next two games, only winning against Maspeth, 53-42, and against Wagner, 47-16.

Coach Devaux said, "We've had an up and down season. We started off well but then we hit a little rough patch." The coach still hopes that the team can make a run to win the division. Captain Victoria Guerrero agrees, pinning the team's hopes on the younger players.

In games, Coach Devaux looks

towards players such as Victoria, Amber Rivera, and Jordalin Ortega, all of whom are seniors for team leadership. Coach Devaux said that four of the five starters are seniors so that will have a huge impact on his team next season. Senior Amber Rivera said, "for the team to be successful next year, the juniors will have to step up and take initiative to become better leaders."

There are sixteen players on the team: freshmen Jylene Figueroa, Alexis Guerrero, Angelin Hernandez, and Ranelisy Pena; sophomores Anely Cortes Molina, Sara Murillo, Ashma Tamang, and Diana Woloszyn; juniors Arlyne Alfaro, Kate Lesli Canlobo, Vanessa Myroniuk, and Valerie Sanchez; and seniors Victoria Guerrero, Ziaire Morgan, Jordalin Ortega, and Amber Rivera.



Despite a bad start, the boys are pinning their hopes on Tyheim Kennedy, who just regained eligibility.

Boys' Varsity Basketball Team Still Struggles in A

by Victoria Guerrero

Halfway through the season and the boys' varsity basketball team has a record of 0-7, putting them in last place in the A-division.

Coach Maloney said that because Queens Voc is a small school he struggles to recruit players who can play and compete in the A-division. Co-coach Garofano added that the team's weakness is rebounding and defense. "There is always hope, as long as the players are committed and give 100% anything can happen," said Coach Maloney.

This year Coach Maloney brought on Mr. Garofano as co-coach because of his coaching and basketball experience. Co-coach Garofano said he plans

on continuing to co-coach and eventually become head coach when Mr. Maloney retires.

Mr. Garofano said that his reserved coaching style paired with Mr. Maloney's aggressive style benefits the team because it offers "a nice balance." Captain Ali Askar, said that having two coaches is better because "when one coach can't stay after school the other can, so we have more opportunities to practice."

Coach Maloney said Ali was chosen as captain for his leadership qualities on and off the court. He said he offers the team a lot of spirit and energy by cheering on his teammates when their heads are down. "I tell them 'c'mon we can still do this there's plenty of time,'" he added

Rugby Team Readies for Season Still Looking for Players

by Luis A. Vasquez

The Goodwill flag rugby team is preparing for a scrimmage against Monroe High School that will be hosted at Queens Voc.

The team participates in tournaments rather than a following regular weekly schedule. Play Rugby USA arranges its upcoming tournaments and distributes schedules. Play Rugby USA also helps develop teams.

The flag rugby team practices every Thursday evening from 6:30pm to 8pm in the gym. Members also get together to practice on their own on

Junior Jose Batista is a rookie on the varsity team who said he is stepping up and becoming a leader on the court. He is the leading scorer on the team, averaging 11 points per game. Compared to the junior varsity basketball team, Jose said that the A-division varsity players are, "tougher, bigger, and more athletic." Jose said that the team is ready to turn their season around with their now-eligible player, Tyheim Kennedy.

Tyheim said he is ready to be a leader and help turn the season around by being a vocal offensive and defensive player on the court. "It's not just me; we all have to come together and communicate as a team in order to make

Saturdays. "Our kids are very motivated to improve their skills," said Mr. Vozzolo, who coaches the team.

Mr. Vozzolo said the flag rugby team season started in October and participated in two tournaments in November.

In the first tournament, on Nov. 5, the team took second place. On Nov. 19, the team struggled because of the turnout. "The seven students who showed up had to play every minute of every game," said Mr. Vozzolo, who was impressed with the determination of his players.

Toby Butterfield, Mike

playoffs. Our defense, offense, rebounding have to improve," he said.

Co-coach Garofano said that at

Kengmana, Rob Mesika, and Jill Povol are volunteers from Play Rugby USA who help coordinate the team and coach alongside Mr. Vozzolo, who teaches at Queens Voc.

The students that are involved are Krismary Arroyo, Brigitte Barcos, Steven Cortes, Jonathan Destler, Jason Gualpa, Luis Jimenez, Dario Morocho, Emanuel Rios, Cristo Tapia, and Karen Ulloa.

Students interested in joining the team should see Mr. Vozzolo or stop by the Goodwill office in room 417 and see either Ms. McCoy or Ms. Uriodain.



George goes up for a layup during a practice in January.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

Jay Rojas



Boys' Bowling
Years on Team: 1

"Jay is a member of the A-team. Jay has been one of the most consistent bowlers. That is one of the most important aspects of a bowler." - Coach Devaux

"Jay is a great bowler. He will always push himself and others to do better. Each time he went up, he would do better." - Anthony Cabrera

Wilson Rosario



Boys' Bowling
Years on Team: 1

"Wilson has been developing some good skills and I am looking forward to the contributions he will be making to the team." - Coach Devaux

"When Wilson walks up to the lane, he is always focused and exquisite in the way he throws the ball." - Ilia Goro

Shanto Sarker



Boys' Bowling
Years on Team: 1

"Shanto is a member of the B-team. He has shown to be pretty consistent and he is a good teammate." - Coach Devaux

"Shanto is a great bowler and a great teammate. He always tries to help everyone get better." - Anthony Cabrera



Lady Tigers end the season with their heads held high.

Volleyball Team Rebuilds

by Areli Marin Flores

The Lady Tigers volleyball team finished the season with two wins and eight losses. "This was a rebuilding season because we had a lot of starters graduate last year," said Coach Shimizu.

The coach was assisted by Stephanie Young, a senior, and Arlyne Alfaro, a junior. Stephanie said that the team's success should be measured in their teamwork, not their wins.

"The season is over but we were really progressing on trusting each other on the court and communicating. By the end of the season we all grew really close like a family," said Stephanie. "As captain, I was responsible to lead the team and bring all of us together as family and help my teammates on improving and learning new skills," she said.

Coach Shimizu said she was surprised that many young players learned the fundamental skills this season. The coach said Sofia, a freshman, is important for the team and she hopes to have her on the team for the next three years. That seems likely. "I enjoy and love playing volleyball," said Sofia.

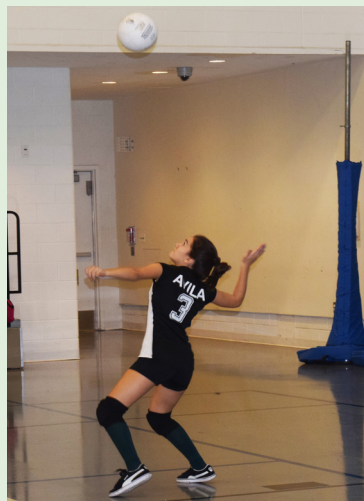
"During practices we always started off with warm ups and stretch. Afterwards we did various types of drills that helped us improve in many different areas," said Valeria. "At practices, we did a lot of drills to improve on our skills and we did crazy workouts but all it was all just to get better on the court," said Valeria.

The team is great. We all support one another and care for each other. We all get along well and they are the best teammates anyone could have, said Daisy Sucuzhanay.

Coach Shimizu is hopeful for the future. "Next year we should be stronger because young players already have learned the basics, so next year they will learn the strategies of volleyball," she said. Ms. Shimizu expects to have these players on the team again next year: Arlyne Alfaro, Sofia Avila, Sydney Barreto, Kate Lesli Canlobo, Chelsy Castellanos, Angelin Hernandez, Helen Leon, Valerie Sanchez, Celina Santos, and Ashma Tamang.

The team is losing seven seniors: Ziaire Morgan, Lisette Moscoso, Valeria Murillo, Jacqueline Rivera, Daisy Sucuzhanay,

Tatiana Tobon, and Stephanie Young. "All the seniors on the team played important roles, they will be a huge loss for next year's season," said Coach Shimizu.



Sofia serves up.

Baseball Gears Up for the Season

by Jamyang Choedrup

The Queens Voc boys' baseball team held its 11th annual Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 23, from 5pm-8pm. Twenty-six team members and 11 former members attended the dinner.

"It's a fun, relaxed, festive atmosphere to talk about what we did in the past and hope to do in the future," said Coach Schimenz. Rob Hanft, a veteran, said "I really like this because no other school teams organize this kind of gathering. It's like celebrating Thanksgiving with your second family."

Earlier in the month, on Saturday, Oct. 29, the baseball team and other students participated in "It's My Park Day," at Flushing Meadows Park. The students raked leaves and painted park



Rookies, veterans, and former varsity baseball players worked together to build the team for 2017.

benches.

In September, about twenty students traveled to Philadelphia to participate in a community service project. The team has been participating in community service activities for nearly twenty years. Since 2008, they have done so as an Action Team and opened their community service activities to all students. The goal of the Action Team is to encourage students to engage in student-directed community services. Twenty-two Queens Voc students helped build picnic tables, planters, and a shed. The volunteers were joined by Major League players Jerad Eickhoff, Tommy Joseph, and Adam Morgan of the Philadelphia Phillies.

In past years the students helped set up and run a haunted house in College Point. This year, though, the Poppenhusen Institute didn't hold its annual Halloween event because the building was having an elevator installed, said Coach Schimenz.

Tryouts for the team were held on Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 8am-3pm at Flushing Meadows Park. Thirty students tried out, 10 fewer than last season. "We are having fewer students trying out every year," said Coach Schimenz. Out of the thirty who tried out, 11 are freshmen, five are sophomores, seven are juniors, and nine are seniors.

The coach holds tryouts in the fall, he said, "because they allow me to see who wants to play and they help hook the boys to keep them focused on achieve eligibility." Thirteen former Queens Voc baseball players helped the coach with the tryouts.

The coach said he hasn't appointed any captains because "much of the work has fallen on me."

To raise funds, the team members designed tee shirts for 11 years. This year, the coach said, they sold about 150 tee shirts. "We still charge only \$10," said the coach, "the same amount we charged when we first started." He added that "it's a great feeling seeing so many staff members wearing baseball team t-shirts. It demonstrates their support for our team."

Action Teams encourage students to engage in student-directed community services.

Girls' Soccer

continued from back page



Kate dribbles to the playoffs.

The girls' soccer team was made up of 29 members including four freshmen: Samara Galicia, Ashley Guaman, Alexis Guerrero, and Ashley Pineda; two sophomores: Jessica Calleja Pena and Lesly Ramirez, nine juniors: Lesley Astudillo Gomez, Norma Bejarano, Alexandra Gonon Perez, Lesly Guerrero, Jackeline Guillen, Grace Minchala, Angie Onofire, Gabriela Sanchez, and Jecklisa Zamora; and 14 seniors: Vielka Alonzo, Myriam Avila, Chelsea Calle, Rosita Cortez, Odalis Espinoza, Brenda Grande, Rina Gualpa, Ilda Limon, Kathy Martos, Carol Morelos, Lesly Pavon, Heidi Saquipulla, Kate Sosa, and Ana Angela Victorino.

Boys' Bowling

continued from back page



Ivan sets up for a strike.

This year the team consisted of 11 rookies: Ian Barragan, Emmanuel Brown, Anthony Cabrera, Ilia Goro, David Kumar, Ivan Ossorio, Philip Papaccio, Edison Rodriguez, Jay Rojas, Wilson Rosario, and Shanto Shaker.

Philip Papaccio, a junior, bowled a 125.50 for the season, the highest average on the team. Philip has had some bowling experience with his father. Philip said he was "somewhat disappointed" about their season. "We thought we had a good enough team to make it to the playoffs, but eventually we started losing and realized we wouldn't," he said.

Although the boys didn't make the playoffs, Ilia Goro said he was exhilarated during their regular season matches. "The entire team was cheering and giving me high fives when I bowled," he said.

Edison agreed. "The best part about bowling was meeting new people, spending time with my friends, and learning a new sport," he said.



Girls’ Soccer Wins Division

by Evelyn Juarez

The girls’ soccer team started off the season on the right foot, winning its first game 2-0, against Beach Channel. From there, they gained victories against Newton, Grover Cleveland, Richmond Hill, and John Adams. When the regular season had ended, the girls’ record consisted of eleven victories, one loss, and two ties, which led them to the playoffs.

The girls won their first playoff game 4-2 against Louis Brandeis but lost in the second round to Manhattan’s NEST + m, which stands for New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math High School.

“The team played to my expectations; we were trying to reach our goal of winning the division and going far in playoffs,” Coach Yu said.

The coach was assisted by team captains Kate Sosa, Ilda Limon, and Odalis Espinoza, who were elected by their teammates. “Overall, the team’s performance was great with our wins,” Kate said. Brenda agreed, saying, “the team did pretty good this season. I loved the effort and

dedication of every girl to prove ourselves and represent Queens Vocational, and we trained well which we demonstrated in our games, however, we could have done better by communicating with one another.”

Goalie and defense player Gabriela Sanchez likes that “the team was dedicated, the girls tried their best to improve, and they encouraged one another to do well.”

Coach Yu is concerned about next year. “Hopefully next year won’t be much of a letdown because the team is comprised of mostly seniors and I will be very sad to see them leave, but we do have some upcoming younger girls that will hopefully carry the baton. Of course, we are always looking forward to potential new girls to join our wonderful team,” he said.

Freshman Alexis Guerrero said, “next year will be hard because not all of the girls are as athletic as the seniors we have now and none of the girls really know how to dribble the ball so it’s going to be hard to find more people like them that have the skills.”

continued on page 19



The girls soccer players happy with their success.

Fresh Start for Boys’ Bowling

by Victoria Guerrero

For the first time in three years the Queens Voc boys’ bowling team did not make it to

the playoffs, and with their record of 2-10, the team finished in last place.

“I would have liked to have



Coach Devaux and his rookies end the season with smiles.



Samara takes pointers from Coach Poltawsky.

Rough Year for Girls’ Bowling

by Jonnathan Sumba

The girls’ bowling team ended its season with a 3-7 record in the Queens II division.

Ms. Poltawsky, who has been coaching the team since 2013, said, “Overall it was a good season considering we had great girls on the team, but we didn’t quite meet our expectation.”

The coach is already thinking about next year and how she is going to manage the team since six of her players are graduating. “I’m hoping I can recruit new girls. It’s hard in bowling because a lot of times we have a lot of seniors join in their last year and then graduate, so we have to redevelop the team from scratch, that’s why I’m hoping to get more players,” she said.

Senior Amber Rivera has been on the team since her junior year and was appointed captain this year. “I decided to join the team because I had friends in it and because bowling is fun. I’ve learned that it doesn’t just take good player or talent to win games, it also takes chemistry and enthusiasm,” she said. “As the captain, I had to keep the girls positive even if they were having

a better record, but I’m not disappointed because I didn’t have any expectations coming into the season with no returning players from the previous year,” said Coach Devaux. Mr. Devaux said that developing a team of rookies into bowlers with proper techniques was an exciting and challenging experience. He added that he would have liked to see more consistency this season. “I enjoyed watching the kids have fun, learn, get better, and jell together, becoming friends that help each other out,” he said.

Captain Edison Rodriguez agreed with the coach, saying he was comfortable and confident because of his supportive teammates.

continued on page 19

an off day, and be a role model for the younger girls,” said Amber, who had the highest average, 110.63.

Freshman Ranelisy Pena, who is planning to join again next year, enjoyed her time on the team. “I wanted to join the team because I wanted to experience something new in my life. The team was very helpful because my teammates helped me become a better player. I love my team,” she said. Ranelisy looked at her experience philosophically. “I’ve learned that you have to be open to what the world is giving you because you don’t know if you will have a chance to have it again in the future,” she said.

“I joined the team because I wanted to try something new,” said sophomore Anely Cortez. “The season overall was fun even though we weren’t able to win that many games. I’m planning to join the team next year since I met many fun and amazing people and because it’s fun to

bowl. Throughout the season I’ve learned that you got to support your teammates because it’s not all about winning, it’s important to show good sportsmanship overall.”

Denise Perez Escobar, one of the six seniors on the team, said she joined the team because “I wanted to expand my skills in bowling since the last time I bowled was two years ago. It was thrilling to go against other schools and to hear the chants from the teams, especially our team. The girls were always looking out for one another and that was good. We always tried to get our self-esteem up even though most of us were shy,” she said.

The members on the team were freshman: Ranelisy Pena; sophomores: Anely Cortez Molina, Karen Sanaicela Pagua, and Karen Solano; juniors: Vanessa Cuellar, Isis Flores, and Nathalia Grajales Bedoya; and seniors: Samara Deokiesingh, Areli Marin-Florez, Denise Perez Escobar, Amber Rivera, Jacqueline Serrano, and Montana Stevens.



Amber aims for a strike.

Soccer Shocker: Boys Fail to Make Playoffs

by Johann Astudillo

The Boys’ soccer team failed to make the playoffs for the first time in ten years. The team finished the season in sixth place

in their division, winning five games, losing six, and drawing one game, leaving them tied with Newcomers High School with 16 points.

continued on page 18



Junior Cristian Alvarez outperforms his competition.

Tigers Sports Continued Inside