



Vocational Voice

Vol. LXXXVIII No. 2

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

Winter, 2013



Diverse City Wear members work hard to raise money.

VE Prepares for Annual In-House Trade Show

by Melissa D. Espinosa

Diverse City Wear, Queens Voc's Virtual Enterprise company is preparing for its annual in-house trade show. Their goal is to make \$50,000.

One goal for this in-house tradeshow is to strengthen the presentation skills of the VE staff. According to Ms. Mitchell, the VE coordinator,

DCW will be selling products from the 2012 -2013 catalog. Customers, students and staff at Queens Voc, will also have the opportunity to buy real, non-virtual fashion jewelry.

In November, DCW participated in the business plan competition and even though they did not come among

continued on page 2

by Xiomara Paredes

Over \$4,000 was distributed to students at an assembly on Tuesday, Feb.12. The assembly was the culmination of a pilot program to promote student literacy, critical thinking, and entrepreneurship education.

The prize money was awarded to students who wrote winning essays for the entrepreneurship essay contest, part of the pilot program at Queens Voc. The program was coordinated and funded by izzit.org, in partnership with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

There was a grade level winner and two runners-up for each grade, and an overall school-wide winner of the essay contest. Because of the high number of entries from ninth graders, four additional honorable mention prizes were



Ms. Ocampo congratulates essay contest winners and thanks izzit representatives.

added for freshmen.

First place winners in each grade received \$500, and the runners-up each received \$200. The students who received honorable mention were awarded \$100 each. Jonathan Edwards, the educational coordinator for Free to Choose

Network, which runs izzit.org, presented the recipients with the checks and award certificates noting their achievement.

The winners were freshman Vasiki Konneh, sophomore Htet Aung, junior Gabrielle Butler, and senior Saul Cruz. Htet Aung was also selected as the overall winner. Runners-up were freshmen Angel Escalante and Rene Espiritu; sophomores Kevin Flores and Breanna Losak; juniors Alexander Borges and Elma Rahman; and seniors Raymond Gomez and Khiran Samsundar. Freshmen Jocelyn Navarro, Tysain Shand, Davier Simmons, and Josue Pina received honorable mentions.

In total, 227 essays were submitted, including 107 essays from freshmen, 34 from

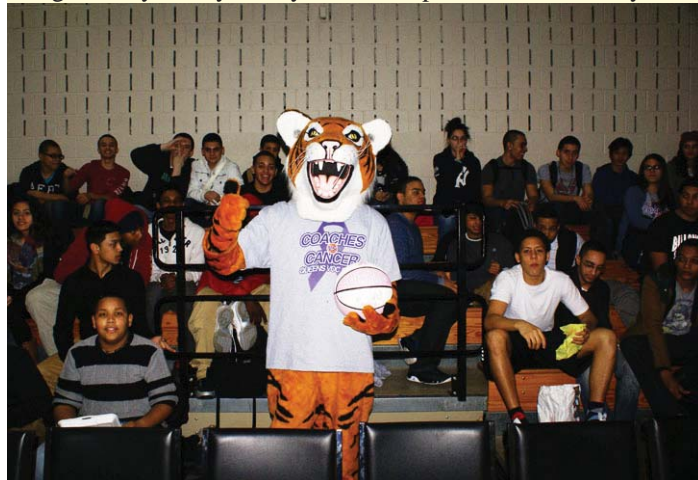
leadership senior in Graphic Arts. Mr. Vega said that the fundraiser for the American Cancer Society was "great because we were able to fight all forms of cancer in one big event."

The Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser centered around the last home game for the girls' varsity basketball team, which took place on Wednesday, Feb.

6. The girls' varsity basketball team defeated Wagner, 37 to 22.

Students and staff packed the bleachers, and were entertained by the school mascot, who, along with Mr. Vega, threw some of the specially designed tee shirts into the crowd during halftime. "There was a big turn-out from staff," said Mr. Devaux, the girls' varsity basketball coach. Mr. Devaux added that the event was such a success that they plan to hold another Coaches vs. Cancer event next year.

The special activities leading up to the game gave it a special feeling. "Not only were we playing for a spot in the playoffs, but we were playing for an important cause," said Ashley DeMoss, one of the girls on the team. The win brought the girls' regular season record to 11-4, third place in their division.



Queens Voc's unnamed mascot cheers with fans.

Student Entrepreneurs Write Winning Essays

he's been especially supportive of Queens Voc. He's helped our students attend each of izzit's Winning Ideas Weekends, which began in 2008," he said.

At the assembly, Jim Tusty, a filmmaker and entrepreneur, spoke about the importance of entrepreneurs in society. He showed how entrepreneurs and business people are increasingly portrayed negatively in movies. "I believe the role of the entrepreneur in bettering the life of all Americans, including the most economically disadvantaged, is greatly underappreciated," he said.

Mr. Tusty founded Mountain View Group, and built it into a highly successful firm that serviced GE, Coca-Cola, IBM, and The Home Depot. Students may be more knowledgeable of his izzit film on eminent domain. Mr. Tusty and his wife Maureen produced a film, *The Singing Revolution*, in 2008, which was compared to Casablanca by the New York Times.

"It was very exciting being at the awards presentation and seeing the attention the students gave to the speakers, and the enthusiasm they showed toward their fellow students who were awarded for their writing. I was thoroughly impressed by the students at Queens Vocational for their respectful and attentive behavior," Mr. Edwards said.

What's Inside

this edition of *Vocational Voice*

Magic, Talent.....2	Poetry, R=AIN, Skills.....9
FBLA, Respect.....3	Inquiring Photog.....10
Senior Activities, Trip....4	Student Art.....11
Honor Society.....5	Principal's Letter.....12
Valentine's, Teachers.....6	Puzzles, Reviews.....13-16
Robotics, Lab Squad.....7	Sr. Sports Profiles...17-18
Mock Trial, Library.....8	Tigers Sports.....19-20



Hilary Rios rehearses for her big moment on stage.

Students Audition for Talent Show

by Kimani Brown

It's that time of the year again for Queens Voc students to put the final pieces together for the annual talent show, which will be held on Thursday, March 21.

"Thirty acts have auditioned, and nineteen made it into the show," said Mr. Vega, the COSA.

Auditions were held after school from Jan. 3 to Feb. 5, in the school auditorium. Many types of acts auditioned including singers, dancers, rappers, guitarists, and a drummer. The acts were judged by Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Rodriguez, school aide Mrs. Martinez, and students Melanie Bastardo, Daisy Maldonado, and Nabila Rahman. The judges scored the act either an in, out, or a callback with additional feedback.

Some of the performers who will be in the show include Alejandro Carrion, Ashley DeMoss, Quinten Diego, Raymond Gomez, David McCullough, Victoria Noel, Elliot Ortiz, Nabila Parnella, Joseph Peterson, Jessica Pichardo, Hillary Rios, Jeremy Taveras, and Tyler Lyons-Tenney.

"I think the performances overall were good. There were a lot of talented people who just by performing for one minute made me want to see what they will do in the actual show," said

Daisy, a senior. Nabila didn't think all the acts were good. "Some people have talent, meanwhile others should just stick to whatever they're doing in shop class," she said.

Amin Al-Sayed, Leander Barrios, Khiran Samsundar, and Antonio Torres helped at the auditions as the stage crew, working with music, microphones, lighting, speakers, and the curtains. "I help with whatever they need in order to perform and it is cool playing around with the sound system and lights," Leander said.

"In order to try out for the talent show you must not have a dean's record or have been suspended this school year. You also need to have a one minute organized act of your specific talent," said Mr. Vega, the COSA.

Sophomore Ezra Torres auditioned. "For the audition I sang the song 'Me' by Tamia and I felt a little nervous but for the most part I was relaxed. I wasn't surprised with the results because I knew I was going to make it into the show," she said.

Kenneth Jimenez and Stephanie Duran performed a dance together and got a callback from the judges.

"I think we did way better than we expected so we disagree with the judges' decision because we felt we did a good job on the first try," said Kenneth.



Alejandro and Anthony practice an acoustic song.

VE Prepares for Annual In-House Trade Show

continued from page 1

the top teams, Ms. Mitchell said, "they did pretty well and their scores for Management Functions, Assessment of the Economic Environment, and Financial Data Presentation were outstanding."

"Management Functions is the part where they explain the roles each person hold within the business, Assessment of the Economic Environment is the analysis of how the company operates both in the outside and in the inside, and the Financial Data Presentation was where

we present the budget, sales analysis and breakeven analysis of the company," CEO Suveer Seemangal said.

Suveer said that all the effort put into the competition paid off for the students. Even though they did not place among the top teams, he said he doesn't have any regrets and is proud of all the effort his team put into the competition.

VE went to the HSBC workshop in Jan. where they will "interact with professionals and sharpen their interviewing

skills, resumes, and financial management skills as well.

VE members also attended a tradeshow sales workshop on Feb. 15, where they learned how the tradeshow will work and how to manage their booth" said Ms. Mitchell.

According to Suveer Seemangal VE is also working on co-sales with other VE companies in New York; they are doing this by sending advertisement to their schools and asking them to check out their website.

Students Learn Change Isn't Magic

by Laura Duarte

Devonte Rosero and Michael "Six" Muldoon from Magicians Without Borders led a program called "Change Isn't Magic" at Queens Voc that helped students develop self-confidence, public speaking skills, and articulation skills while learning magic.

"After meeting Devonte and hearing his story, I thought it was a really good program that would help empower kids who felt uninspired," said Ms. Burg, Queens Voc principal.

The program was separated into two classes that met in the auditorium on Tuesdays and Fridays during December. The first "Change Isn't Magic" class was from 3pm to 4:30pm. The second was from 4:30 to 6pm.

Queens Voc students first heard about the program when it was first introduced to them in October. Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of Pupil Personnel Services, said that close to 50 students signed up for the program, and although all of them were accepted, about 70 percent showed up consistently. Ms. Ocampo said

that some students who signed up and didn't show was because of their schedule. Others, she said, were overachievers who couldn't attend because they were already so busy. "Most students who signed up might have wanted to try different avenues," she said.

The program was a success. After the last class, students went to Ms. Burg's office to tell her how much they got out of the program. Ms. Burg said that the magicians, as well as the students, had a good time teaching the program.

"I learned to speak and control a crowd better," said junior Elliot Ortiz. Elliot said the program helped him with skills as a magician, but most students, he said, didn't take it seriously because they were there to just hang out.

Edith Fernandez, a senior who was in "Change Isn't Magic," said she learned how to do magic tricks using a deck of cards. "It was fun to meet new people in the program. The teachers made it interesting," said Edith.

The program wasn't only about just learning magic card tricks, but also how to

incorporate your own personal story into the trick, just like Devonte does with his main act. While learning how to present their stories through tricks, the future magicians of Queens Voc were learning how to improve their public speaking. "I learned how to be more outspoken and not to be shy in front of big crowds. We were taught how to project our voice when speaking," said Fatima Veras, business student.

"I thought along with the program being a lot of fun, it helped students concentrate and attend school. I think it was wonderful to have had," said Ms. Burg. Queens Voc paid \$4,900 to the House of Magic, a business started by Devonte, to run "Change Isn't Magic." Ms. Burg said that she would like to run the program again, and would like to extend it to accomplish more, like having a repertoire where the students from "Change Isn't Magic" create a performance for Queens Voc.

"Devonte is in El Salvador with Magicians Without Borders. When he comes back we can look into running the program again," said Ms. Burg.

Students Claim They're Victims in Calls for Cuts

by Saul Cruz

"I didn't do it!"

This is what some Queens Voc students are saying about the continual phone calls from the school that notify their parents of class cuts. Some students claim that these calls home are all a mistake.

According to Mr. Daniel, attendance coordinator and health teacher, Queens Voc uses a program called ATS. Teachers take the students' attendance each period and submit it at the end of the day. ATS is the system that scans the period class attendance. After ATS scans the attendance, class absences are detected by a

program called Global Connect, which call students' homes regarding class absences.

Senior Hommy Pena is one of the students whose parents have received multiple phone calls home regarding class absences. "I feel that the students and teachers equally share the blame when it comes to attendance errors," said Hommy. He said that some students cannot blame the teachers for these errors if they don't respond to their name when the attendance is being taken. Unlike some students, Hommy said he answers to his name when the attendance is taken. "The only reason I keep getting these phone calls

home is because some teachers are being careless with the attendance," he said.

Francisco Trivino is another senior whose parents have received what he says are erroneous phone calls. "The school called my home 10 times. It was a reoccurring thing but has recently stopped." Francisco said that the reason that Global Connect has called numerous times, is because of substitute English teachers who took his attendance incorrectly even though he was always present.

"Students can come to me, Ms. Martinez, or Ms. Datner to correct class cuts," said Mr. Daniel.

Winter Wonderland

by Judy Moy

Students and teachers at Queens Voc participated in a world-wide campaign to create paper snowflakes for students of Sandy Hook Elementary School as they returned to classes after the recent shooting.

The Parent Teacher Association of Newtown created the Snowflake Project in hopes of creating a happier environment in spite of the tragedy. Ms. Panayiotou, a science teacher, received an email about the Snowflake Project from a friend who teaches in Newtown. She then forwarded the email to teachers in Queens Voc the week just before Christmas

break in December. Queens Voc students cut and decorated hundreds snowflakes out of paper to hang all over their hallways to create a “winter wonderland” for the children as a supportive welcome back.

Many teachers in Queens Voc allowed students to take time in their classes to construct snowflakes. Senior Priya Seejoor made paper snowflakes in Mr. Garcia’s graphic arts class and in Mr. Vega’s leadership class. “I enjoyed making snowflakes for the kids that went through so much. I hope they smile when they walk in and see all the snowflakes,” Priya said.

Htet Aung, a sophomore, also cut out snowflakes in Mr. Vega’s leadership class. “I felt that I was doing something good for the community. It was for children in a terrible situation

and it felt good to cheer them,” he said.

Students and faculty of Queens Voc also donated to Toys for Tots, which was coordinated by Ms. Rejalaga, Ms. Ferrara, and the 9th grade leadership. Mr. Vega’s leadership class helped in spreading the word around the school by creating flyers and posting them. Toys for Tots is a foundation run by the Marine Corps to collect new, unwrapped toys or other goods, such as books, for less fortunate children so they can experience the joy of Christmas. This year it took place from Nov. 27 to Dec. 12. Everybody in Queens Voc was welcome to bring in toys and other goods to room 143. Ms. Rejalaga said two full boxes of roughly about 100 toys were picked up by the Marines. Queens Voc received an award for participation.

Respect for ALL

by Khiran Samsundar & Marilynn Bonilla

Feb. 11 through Feb. 15 was designated as “Respect for All Week” by the New York City Department of Education, in association with the New York City Council, United Federation of Teachers, and the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators.

According to the DOE website, Respect for All Week was designed to build on diversity programs within the schools. The plan was to encourage students to stand against bias based harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying based on race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin,

citizenship/immigration status, religion, sexual identity and orientation, weight, or disability.

The leadership class decided to urge students and staff to wear certain colors to represent the different forms of bias and discrimination.

Monday, Sex Bias (Pink)
Tuesday, Bullying (Navy Blue)
Wednesday, Disability Bias (Purple)
Thursday, Racism (Red)
Friday, Citizenship Bias (Gray)

The leadership class along with Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, kept track of participating students. The plan is to reward the students who participated all five days, Mr. Vega said. Thirty students

out of the 1500 enrolled at the school, participated each day.

The following students participated all five days of Respect for All Week are: Arif Abdul, Nicole Alvarez, Johnell Artis, Dorothy Bailey, Kimani Brown, Denisse Carbo, William De Los Angeles, Syed Ibitahj Farouq Syed, Eylin Florez, Abigail Garcia, Vanessa Llera, Leslie Mirmon, Isaac Morales, Judy Moy, Mayte Neorete, Fatima Osman, Suzette Perez, Maria Quintanilla, Marlen Ramirez, Hoanna Rocano, Priya Seejoor, Felipe Valdivi Sevilla, Tia Singh, Marju Sotto, Karena Tangarife, Brenda Taveras, Johanna Torres, Nesla Velovic, Andrea Zaavedra, Dayana Zamora.

average in economics either,” he added. Christian Flores said that the participants chosen are usually seniors, because they tend to have more knowledge. The competition will take place in Rochester, New York, April 10-12.

The participants are preparing by using practice tests that were given to them by Ms. Mitchell, the FBLA advisor. Ms. Mitchell tests them every week, said Christian who is competing in economics and personal finance. “I hope that we have more winners this year as opposed to last year when we only had one participant among the top students statewide,” she added.

On Feb. 13, there was a District 2 meeting in the school’s library. During that meeting the participants competed against FBLA members from the four other schools in the district. “The meeting went great. We had nine of our FBLA members finish among

19 Seniors Accepted into Construction Skills 2000 Program

by Andy Collado

Construction Skills 2000 serves as a pathway for seniors to enter the workforce directly after graduation. Twenty-six students applied to the program, but only nineteen were accepted because they met the requirements.

Sebastian Bonilla said he applied to Construction Skills because, “this was something I liked and to be in the union is perfect. They send me to school and work. Those were two things I wanted to do.” Antonio Torres said he applied to Construction Skills because, “it is a great advantage point. I see it as a red carpet access into the trade. It is a great way to get a good job right out of high school.”

These seniors can possibly enter one of the 23 unions in NYC. The unions consist of electrical, elevator, plumbing, carpenter, metal worker, riggers and the diggers, and boilermakers union. Students will be sent to training seminars from March until May. The seminars are on Mondays for 15 weeks, from 1pm to 5pm, and held in Manhattan. The students who pass the seminars will continue the program into the summer. Students will choose from 23 unions and work one of two summer rotations. Mr. Ali recommends students go to the July rotation so they finish on time to attend college.



Rob is an El pro.

Construction Skills 2000 applications were due before the December break. Students should have a minimum of a 75 as a mean GPA, at least a 75 or higher on any math Regents, and at least a 75 on their English Regents, and must be recommended by their CTE teacher. “If the students have low scores, their CTE teacher recommendation becomes a very important factor and determines whether or not the students get into the program,” said Mr. Ali, director of SSBT.

The students accepted to the Construction Skills program are: Sebastian Bonilla, Saul Cruz, Emir De La Cruz, Albert Ferrari, Kevin Foronda, Robert Gonzalez, Krysztow Jakubowicz, Eamon Mansfield, Guicela Modesto, Eddie Mendez, Juan Montana, Gabriel Nana, Diego Palacios, Yannis Pascal, Sabrina Spiecker, Antonio Torres, Diony Trejo, Jeremy Vargas, and Adrian Vega.

FBLA Hosts District Meeting



QV’s FBLA competing in a District 2 meeting.

by Miguel Garcia

Queens Voc’s Future Business Leaders of America members are preparing for the State Leadership Conference that will take place in April, said Melissa Espinosa, president of

Queens Voc’s FBLA chapter.

“There are 12 FBLA members participating in this year’s SLC in April,” said Melissa. The participants were chosen based on their knowledge and on their grades, said Jose Recinos. “You can’t have a low



Emir De La Cruz cuts conduit for installation.

the top four in their individual competitions,” said Melissa. According to Sonia Sanchez, vice president for District 2, students who came in first and second place received a plaque, and students finishing in third and fourth place received a certificate. Sonia took first place in Accounting one.

“My expectations for this

year are for us to place on the top four so that we may be able to go on to nationals in California, June 27-30,” Sonia said.

The FBLA members are also fundraising. They had a bake sale on Feb. 14 and are selling chocolate to raise funds to help pay the cost of the state conference, said Jose.

Senior Activities Focus on Fun



Queens Voc seniors unite not only for a group shot but also for the year.

by Fatima Osman

The senior trip to Honors Haven Resort and Spa was a “life changing experience,” said senior David Pena. One hundred and four seniors went on the trip, which took place from Jan. 18 to Jan. 20.

“We became closer with our friends and other QV seniors that attended the trip,” David said.

Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, coordinated the trip.

One of the activities was paintball. “Paintball players had the opportunity to shoot their friends and teachers,” David said. While he had fun, he said that “they could have had more activities such as group snowball fights and snow tubing races. And the food could have been a little bit better.”

Senior Class President Raymond Gomez did not

attend the senior trip. He said, “I didn’t attend because my closest friends did not.”

In November, as the senior trip was being planned, a senior kickback was held. “Mr. Vega came up with the idea,” said Senior Treasurer Maria Abbasi, “as an opportunity for seniors to get together and get to know each other.”

The kickback was held on Friday, Nov. 16, from 5pm to 8:30pm, in the cafeteria. According to Mr. Vega, about 113 seniors attended this event. The cost to attend was \$3 for non-student organization members but for SO members it was for free. Senior Heather Clarke said her “favorite part was the karaoke because everyone had a chance to sing and have fun with each other.” There was catered food, which included chicken fingers, mozzarella sticks, bread sticks, and pasta.

Heather said that “They had good music and good food,” but “they should have had a variety of music.” She suggested that “we should do the karaoke again. We should also have a photo booth and more activities such as a dance contest.”

The senior glow-out, organized by Ms. DeCarlo, the yearbook advisor, was originally supposed to be on Feb. 8, but postponed to Feb. 22 because of the big snowstorm.

The glow-out “provided an opportunity for seniors to come together and celebrate. The main purpose of the senior glow-out was to take a group shot of the class of 2013,” said Ms. DeCarlo.

The glow-out was held in the cafeteria from 5pm to 8:30pm, with a DJ. To attend, seniors paid \$3, which covered the cost of glow sticks, paint, pizza, and drinks.

The annual senior luncheon,

according to Mr. Vega, may take place on either March 22 or April 5. The senior luncheon is a themed event. Past themes were red carpet, cartoon character, black and white, casino, and the ’80s theme. The class of 2013 may choose another theme. “The senior leadership members are asking seniors for some suggestions,” Maria said. “Some suggestions have been the Hawaiian theme, ’70s, ’80s, and black and white theme.”

Mr. Vega said that there might be a senior movie night. Senior Secretary Khiran Samsundar said, “The movie night is an option but it is not a top priority at the moment.”

Oscar Night, run by the yearbook committee, is a Queens Voc tradition. “Oscar Night is a senior event where class favorites, also known as ‘senior mosts’ are announced.

Students are encouraged to dress as their favorite personalities as they walk the red carpet. Awards are given out and ‘celebrities’ perform for the crowd,” said Ms. DeCarlo.

There may also be a game night, said Mr. Vega. He said that if the senior officers follow through with the planning, it’ll happen.

Raymond Gomez said, “I talked to Mr. Vega and we are going to push for an extra event. We are looking for a karaoke night because of how successful the karaoke portion of the kickback was.”

Seniors have been raising funds in a number of ways. Raymond said, “the money raised from individual chocolate fundraiser can go towards prom, senior dues, or the senior trip.”

According to Mr. Vega, money raised from a food

festival, a bake sale, and from selling QV knitted hats will go toward reduced prom tickets for the first 100 students. Mr. Vega said that the food festival might occur at the beginning of March.

The senior officers and senior leadership members are now planning the food festival, Khiran said.

A senior bake sale was held in December. The sale was held in room 143, and made about \$350, said Mr. Vega, who credited seniors Myra Andrews, Khiran Samsundar, Jessika Guerrero, Jenelle Perrucci, and Dayana Zamora with running the bake sale.



Hoodies ready to go.

The senior hoodie and t-shirt were not included in the senior dues this year because not all the seniors wanted them, and they increased senior dues significantly. Senior Judy Moy designed the hoodie. About one hundred and fifteen seniors ordered the package—hoodie and t-shirt—at a cost of \$40, which were distributed on Thursday, Jan. 17, the day before the senior trip. “We do them because it has become a tradition,” Maria said, “It makes the seniors stand out.”

Seniors Be Tripping

by Natanael Feitosa

One hundred and four students from Queens Voc attended the senior trip which took place Jan. 18-20. Two



Even Mr. Vega roller skates.

coach buses full of students headed to Honor’s Haven Resort, in Ellenville, New York.

This was the fifth senior trip to Honor’s Haven Resort, a popular destination for Queens Voc seniors. Seniors each paid \$289 to attend the trip.

Monica Vega, senior vice president, attended the trip. “The senior trip was a success. It went well and I had a lot of fun,” she said.

The funniest time that happened in the senior trip was the hallway party. “Someone started playing music. Once I heard the music, I went out in the hall and saw everyone leaving their room and start

dancing in the hall.” Monica said that she will always treasure the moment she spent with her friends on the senior trip.

Mauricio Rivera is another senior who attended the trip. He thought the trip was “fun and relaxing.” He said he loved spending his time playing soccer and basketball with his friends. Mauricio said that he will always remember the trip and that he enjoyed spending time with his friend and meeting new people. He said that the funniest thing that happened on the senior trip was when he saw Marilynn and Rohany fighting. Actually, they were wrestling. “We were bored and wanted to amp the crowd, so we decided



Skiers take to the the hills.

to wrestle. We wrestled for three rounds and I slammed her to the floor three times,” Marilynn said.

The senior trip had many activities in which students could participate. Students spent their time ice-skating, skiing, rock climbing,

snowboarding, karaoke, playing in the game room, and watching movies. Some students paid for additional activities such as paintball and Horseback riding.

Mr. Vega said that not only was the trip was a success, but all the students were well behaved.



Achieving Scholastic Honor



Ms. Dattner leads the candle lighting ceremony.

by Isaiah George

Over 200 students were inducted into the Presidential Honor Society on Wednesday, Jan 9.

The ceremony began at 8am in the auditorium. Ms. Dattner and Ms. Basirico, guidance counselors, coordinated the event. "It's important to commemorate the educational achievements of our students," said Ms. Dattner.

Parents, siblings, and friends of the inductees were invited to the morning event, which was followed by breakfast in the cafeteria.

After brief remarks by Principal Burg, Assistant Principal Ocampo, and Raymond Gomez, senior class president and valedictorian, honor society medals and certificates were awarded to each inductee.

The event was a celebration of success. "I'm very excited to be a part of the honor society. I feel like I'm being noticed for my academic achievements in high school," said senior Amin Al-Sayed. Philip Gooding, a junior echoed those sentiments. "I am happy that I can be praised by my teachers, friends and family members," he said.

To sophomore Catrell Jewell, the induction wasn't just about himself. "I feel proud of my classmates for achieving their academic goals, and I just hope we keep it up and do it again next year," he said.

Ms. Dattner, perhaps speaking for the rest of the school staff, said she was "super-proud, a lot of our focus is on the kids who are not doing well or behaving appropriately. Celebrating the successful kids feels good," said Ms. Dattner. Following the distribution of the medals and certificates, Ms. Basirico took the stage and led the students in the Honor

Society pledge.

A candle lighting ceremony took place with the honor society inductees, so numerous that they overflowed from the stage and lined the perimeter of the auditorium.

Breakfast was served in the cafeteria for the students participating and their guests, a chance for families to congratulate their children on their accomplishments.

"The Honor Society induction ran smoothly, each component flowed seamlessly into the next, and everyone was safe," said Ms. Dattner.

Although not all attended the event, the following students were eligible for induction:



Students present colors.

Maria Abbasi
Mariam Abbasi
Sandy Abiad
Denisse Abreu
Pamela Abreu
Jacqueline Aguilar
Tarek Ahmed
Safreen Akbar
Amin Al-Sayed
Saaif Alam
Jessica Alcaide
Devon Almonte
Henry Alvarez
Alexandra Ambrus
Gerardo Amigon
Anthony Angel
Ashley Arango
Hamail Arshad

Katia Ascencio
Karina Astudillo
Joselyne Aucapina
Jenny Aucaquizhpi
Htet Aung
Mateo Avila
Islam Azharul
Mohammed Aziz
Dorothy Bailey
Marjan Bakth
Sauvik Banik
Sayeka Gazi Banu
Shubham Basra
Alexander Borges
Gabriella Biondo
Khirey Blake
Pedro Bonilla
Maciej Bozek
Szymon Bozek
Kimani Brown
Gabrielle Butler
Ashley Carvajal Cabrera
Wen Xiao Cai
Nicole Caicedo
Wendy Camacho
Christian Campis
Denisse Carbo
Melissa Carbo
Meztli Cardoso
Susana Cardoso
Karen Carrasco
Jean Pierre Carrion
Kelvin Chabla
Yan Chen
Wen Li Chen
Qingqing Cheng
Hasan Chisty
Sadiah Chowdhury
Thalia Cia
Andy Collado
Nicole Coro
Shourov Deb
Dean Dedios
Hemant Dhanraj
Pamela Diaz
Laura Duarte
Cynthia Duque
Iveth Duran
Paola Dutan
Marc Dutan
Jesus Espinal
Eudeirys Espinal
Melissa Espinosa
Syed Ibtihaj Farooq
Natanael Feitosa
Gissell Fernandez
Liliana Fernandez
Christian Flores
Miguel Garcia
Marcos Garcia
Ariel Gomez
Raymond Gomez
Raymond Gong
Sahury Gonzalez
Alex Gonzalez
Monica Gonzalez
Phillip Gooding
Brayan Guanga
Natalie Guanga
Gino Guerra
Jessica Guerrero
Breanna Halladeen
Jose Hernandez
Mike Hernandez
Eileen Herrera

Ahtesham Hoque
Mohammed Hossain
Azra Hoxha
Chi Lung Hsu
Dalia Ibarra
Xiomaira Inga
Amanda Itturalde
Leiry Jaquez
Erika Jara
Harsimar Jassar
John Jerez
Catrell Jewell
Marcin Kochanek
Kelly Laynes
Lisbeth Lopez
Christian Lopez
Valerie Lara Lopez
Breanna Losak
Isiah Lyons
Suleima Macancela
Feng Yi Mai
Daisy Maldonado
Valentin Martinez
Rosalva Martinez
Jennifer Martinez
Orlando Martinez
Gabriella Martinez
Eric Mcpherran
Lisbeth Mejia
Keven Mendez
Natalie Mercado
Edith Mesa
Addy Molina
Isaac Morales
Alan Tinoco Morales
Judy Moy
Jasmin Mrkolic
Zinniah Munoz
Maritza Murudumbay
Hamza Naseer
Andres Ng
Alexis Nieves
Licerio Nique
Nemesis Noel
Luz Cifuentes Nunez
Andi Syarifah Octavianti
Carla Ordenez
Monica Orellana
Karen Orellana
Michelle Orozco
Daniela Ortiz
Nicole Osorio
Diego Palacios
Antonio Parada
Xiomara Paredes
Lesley Paucar
Hommy Pena

Nichole Perez
Suzzette Perez
Maria Perez
Emily Perez
Michal Piekarz
Kimberly Pisfil
Tania Puchuela
Udayan Puthenkalam
Mengxue Qu
Carmen Quintuna
Sandra Quizhpi
Emily Quizhpilema
Arun Rai
Mauricio Rivera
Joanna Rocano
Stephanie Rojas
Michael Roman
Adan Romero
Khiran Samsundar
Kimberly Sanay
Sonia Sanchez
Cindy Sanchez
Jesse Santander
Mary Lael Sato
Crystal Scottborgh
Priya Seejoor
Noman Shahzada
Kimberly Sinche
Amritpal Singh
Jacob Sobilo
Christian Solarte
Nazanin Somarin
David Soto
Jessica Tacuri
Bruce Tan
Vanessa Tapia
Charly Tenesaca
Christian Teran
Shantal Teran
Shaikh Tonmoy
Monica Vega
Richard Vega
Jesus Victorio
Kevin Vilchez
Kevin Villca
Estefania Villegas
Lesly Vivar
Xiaoping Wang
Raymond Xue
Paola Yauri
Qingsi Yu
Omar Zaid
Dayana Zamora
Mirian Zhagui
Na Zheng
Ken Zou
Erika Zumba



Inductees and family gather for continental breakfast.

Queens Voc Delivers on Valentine's Day

by Khiran Samsundar

The SO held its annual Valentine's Day sale in room 143. Mr. Vega, the Coordinator of student activities, ordered 500 carnations, 17 dozen chocolate roses and five dozen stuffed animals.

The carnations and the stuffed animals were such a big hit that by the end of fifth period they were already sold out. The chocolate roses were not as big a hit; only nine dozen were sold.

Prices per items were:

Carnation - \$1.
Chocolate Rose - \$2.
Plush Dog - \$3.
Plush Bear - \$2.
Hugging Bears - \$3.
Jungle Animal - \$2.50.

The profit made from the sale will be used by the SO for upcoming events.

Deliveries were made by certain students that were asked to work the sale and the leadership class on their leadership period.

"It was a really fun day. A lot of students were able to send gifts to their friends," Mr. Vega said.

Assisting Mr. Vega with the sale throughout the day were Maria Abbasi, Marilynn Bonilla, Denisse Carbo, Romana Hossain, Daisy Maldonado, Natalie Martinez, Edith Mesa, Victoria Noel, Jenelle Perrucci, Khiran Samsundar, and Monica Vega. Leadership class members also helped during their leadership period.



Romana Hossain and Daisy Maldonado help organize Valentine's Day orders.

Introducing Even More New Teachers!

by Marilynn Bonilla

Queens Voc continues to add on new faces to its faculty. We highlighted six new Queens Voc teachers in the previous edition of Vocational Voice.

Four new teachers were to be included in this edition. But since then, four more teachers have joined the staff. These eight teachers will be highlighted in this edition: Ms. De La Rosa, Ms. Isaza, Ms. Karcher, Mr. Petrilli, Mr. Reynoso, Mr. Rosenthal, Ms. Stewart, and Ms. Volpe.

Ms. De La Rosa teaches Spanish to freshmen and juniors. Her first impression of Queens Voc was how welcoming teachers and staff were. Before teaching in Queens Voc, she taught Spanish in Grover Cleveland High School. "Both schools are basically the same, it's just the behavior of students

that make them different," said Ms. De La Rosa. "Students here aren't as motivated, but I plan to work on that with them. But the students are wonderful," she said. Ms. De La Rosa said she had a teacher in elementary school, passionate and motivated to teach, who inspired her to become a teacher. Ms. De La Rosa said she plans to prepare her students for the Spanish Regents exam. "I want my students to learn to the best of their ability. I hope to be an example and inspire them. Some students even mention that they want to be foreign language teachers," said Ms. De La Rosa.

Ms. Isaza, a Queens Voc graduate, teaches English as a Second Language to freshmen. Before teaching in Queens Voc, Ms. Isaza taught at a private elementary school. She has also taught disabled adults.

Ms. Isaza likes that Queens Voc has a lot of opportunities for students, such as being able to make more money when they graduate than the average high school graduate. She said she wanted to become a teacher because she wanted to make a difference. Ms. Isaza said that it is rewarding to teach and help students graduate and go to college. "I want to prepare my students to be in a regular English class, improve their grades, and do well on the English Regents," she said.

Ms. Karcher teaches Spanish to freshmen. She was a Spanish teacher at Bryant High School before teaching in Queens Voc. "Bryant High School was much bigger, however, this school has much more ethnic diversity," she said. Ms. Karcher's first impression of Queens Voc was that everyone was very welcoming. "This school is well

organized, well established, and it's a good school," she said. Ms. Karcher said she became a teacher because her mom was also a teacher. "I also had really great teachers in high school, and many students in my schools went on to become teachers," she said. "I want to help the students have a good experience in high school," she added. Ms. Karcher plans to teach her students the same way she learned Spanish. "I learned Spanish as a non-native Spanish speaker, and my experience can help the kids learn that way," she said.

Mr. Petrilli teaches graphics design to freshmen and art to sophomores and juniors. He taught for seven years in High School of Graphic Communication Arts, "a much larger school. It was also an 'F' grade school, so they were struggling to stay open. Queens Voc is different because they don't have that problem as a 'B' school. The students work much harder, are better behaved, teachers are happy to see me, and likewise, I'm happy to see them. It's been a good experience so far," said Mr. Petrilli, who worked for major advertisement agencies such as Saatchi and Saatchi as an artist and copywriter. But after working in that career for 25 years, he decided to become a teacher. "With the benefit of my knowledge to teach and experience as an industry professional, I want to offer the students a chance to work real hard to develop great portfolios and prepare for college and industry while still having fun," he said.

Mr. Reynoso teaches Spanish to students in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies. He previously taught Spanish and coached volleyball in Grover Cleveland, and coached tennis for Townsend Harris before teaching in Queens Voc. "I respect and admire my colleagues here, they have a lot of meaningful and constructive conversations and meetings that are helpful for the students," said Mr. Reynoso. Teaching tennis and attending to his 18 nieces and nephews made him want to become a teacher. "Also, in high school, teachers helped me tremendously, so I want to do the same with my students so they can have a great future," he said. With the opportunity to teach, Mr. Reynoso said he will teach Spanish and incorporate teaching respect, discipline, and important values for the students.

Mr. Rosenthal is the lab specialist. He is in charge of

the lab. Mr. Rosenthal has worked for the Department of Education for seven years. He taught earth science, physics, and living environment and was the robotics coach for A. Philip Randolph High School. He teaches science education at Hunter College. Mr. Rosenthal started a lab squad in which students help clean the lab and prepare the materials that are needed for lab. "Queens Voc is a smaller school compared to where I taught, and this school is well run. I like that the students are really nice here and they respect the staff. It's great that there are still vocational schools left and the shop classes seem interesting," he said. Mr. Rosenthal was inspired to pursue a career in science because of his influential science teachers he had before. "I plan to provide amazing lab activities so students may learn through hands on experimentation," he said.

Ms. Stewart is an English teacher. She teaches freshmen, sophomores, and seniors. "I like Queens Voc because it's a traditional American high school environment," she said. Ms. Stewart said that teachers have been supportive. "It's really such a friendly and welcoming place," she said. Ms. Stewart, who likes to write poetry and stories, said she became an English teacher because of her skills and interest in writing. Ms. Stewart hopes to inspire students with the lessons she teaches in class, and most importantly, help them do well in English and pass the Regents.

Ms. Volpe teaches art and also teaches web design for the seniors. In October, she was also elected as a teacher representative to the School Leadership Team. She previously taught in Spanish Harlem. "Queens Voc is a much larger school because I taught in a school with only about 300 students. This school has more to offer the students, such as the CTE majors, more sports, and more technology and facilities," said Ms. Volpe. She said that the school has a nice environment, it's clean, and students are pleasant. Ms. Volpe said she became a teacher because her art teachers inspired her. She also wanted to teach what she loves, art. "I teach my students realistic art in a drawer's perspective. I teach them about the different shades in pictures as well. This spring, my class will learn about color and applying color to drawings. And in web design, I will teach my students how to create storyboards and websites using Dreamweaver," she said.

RoboTigers Ascent to Victory

by Miguel Garcia

On Jan. 5, the FIRST Competition kickoff was held. The kickoff marked the beginning of the 2013 season.

On the day of the kickoff, the game for this year's competition was revealed to the teams at the same moment in locations all over the world via NASA broadcast, said senior Richard Vega who has been on the team since last year. "This year the game for the competition is called Ultimate Ascent in which the robot we build has to be able to score as many discs into the goals in a two minute and 15 seconds match," said Richard.

Queens Voc's robotics team 1796 began its preparations for building the robot designed for the FIRST [For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, Robotics] Competition. According to the FRC website the teams participating had until Feb. 19 to complete the robot.

"Our team got divided into two groups on the day of the kickoff. The members who volunteered to go to Polytechnic Institute of New York University in Brooklyn

watched the broadcasting there and picked up the equipment that we needed for the robot. The rest of the members reported to school to watch the broadcasting of the event in room 346," said Denisse Carbo a senior who has been in the robotics team since her freshman year.

The robotics team was given six weeks in order to brainstorm, design, and build the robot so they couldn't afford to waste any time, said Denisse. The robotics team was broken up into five teams, the build, electrical, programming, administrative, and spirit, said senior Isaac Morales. "The main issues we wanted to focus on was building prototypes of a shooter and pick up system which turned out to be a challenge," said junior Alexander Borges.

Their first season match is going to be held on March 7-9 at Jacob Javits Convention Center followed by another match in April 4-6 at Hofstra University, said Denisse. If the robotics team wins either one of those matches, Queens Voc's robotics team will move on to nationals on April 24-27 at St. Louis, Missouri.



Alex using drill press to help build robot.

Lab Squad Experiments

by Jathzia Farro

Lab Squad is a new addition to Queens Voc's clubs and activities. Run by Mr. Rosenthal, Lab Squad meetings are held every day during lunch periods in room 205.

Before coming to Queens Voc Mr. Rosenthal taught Regents classes in Earth Science, Living Environment, and Physics. He started Lab Squad in early September, two weeks after the beginning of school. Mr. Rosenthal said that he recruited students by going into their classrooms and telling them about the squad. They meet only during lunch periods five, six, and seven. There are two students in fifth period,

four students in sixth, and three students in seventh.

Xiao Wen Cai is one of Lab Squad's seventh period students. She enjoyed her experience and was happy to help people as she learned something new in Lab Squad. "My buddies and I have a lot of fun at Lab Squad," she said.

Mr. Rosenthal created Lab Squad to spark more interest in science among students. "The Lab Squad helps set up labs and break apart all science activities and classroom presentations," he said. They test all science experiments before teachers do, and sometimes help around the lab. "They help organize and create awesome lab activities for the school. Cleaning,



The stage is set for students and staff to give blood.

QV Driven to Donate Blood

by Raymond Gomez

Forty-nine units of blood were collected in Queens Voc's first biannual blood drive for the 2012- 2013 school year, held on Dec. 17. Kimani Brown, who registered donors, said approximately 100 students and 15 adults signed up but only 43 people were able to donate.

Many potential donors were rejected because they didn't meet height and weight requirements, had low levels of iron, were out of the country recently, had unprofessional piercings or recent tattoos, or had a cold. Others just didn't show up. The blood drive ended at 2pm, as scheduled, leaving eight students disappointed. Andres Ospina, a senior, was filling out the blood drive registration during seventh period when the New York Blood Center closed. Andres said that they told him they "had enough blood."

In Queens Voc, students who are ages 17 and older may donate blood. Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, said he does not want students who are

16 years of age donating blood. He said that younger students may be underweight, may not have proper nourishment, may experience fatigue, or may not abide guidelines. He noted that there was a maturity factor concerning older students who may be able to handle donating better than the 16-year olds.

Ismael Khalil, a senior, donated blood because he said, "I knew it would be helpful to others." Ismael received a booklet requiring age, height, weight, and parental consent. The New York Blood Center provided snacks for him and other donors. "I thought I would feel dizzy. I was nervous at first but I listened to music and it went smoothly. I sat with the needle stuck in my arm for ten minutes," Ismael said. Ismael also said he wished the blood center would have told him his blood type.

Monica Vega, a senior, was one of the students rejected because her weight did not match her height. "I was upset because I knew I was healthy," she said.

Mr. Vega said that this year's

stapling, collating, and filing also come into play on a weekly basis. Some members are in charge of keeping our 'Mini Zoo' alive and have the responsibility of caring for our aquatic microorganisms. Other members are becoming microscope techs and learning

to dismantle and fix our microscope fleet. There are great students at Queens Voc and it's nice to meet so many competent young adults," he said. "They are bright, determined, energetic, and embrace the value of teamwork."



Iveth Duran experimenting with the lab equipment.

blood drive was as successful as it could be, even though 17-year olds and older were targeted and with the amount of students who had low iron being rejected. Many Queens Voc students are rejected because their iron levels are too low.

Signing up to donate blood requires that one fill out a registration form. Students who wanted to donate had to choose which periods they would like to donate. Regardless of their age, students are required to have a parental signature, a New York Blood Center requirement.

Reader's Realm Raises Funds

by Jose Recinos

Ms. Lewis and the book club members have been fundraising for hoodies and a spring trip that they are planning. The 30 book club members decided to get hoodies to distinguish themselves as a school club. The hoodies will have the book club emblem on the front and the name of the students on the back.

So far the book club has raised \$1,340 from selling chocolate. "The book club members are selling the chocolate rapidly and I believe we will pass the book club goal of \$2,000," said Ms. Lewis. For now, the members wear their book club pins that say "Readers Realm" to the meetings, held in the library during periods five, six, seven, and eight every Friday.

The members are currently reading *Getting The Girl*, a fiction by Markus Zusak. The book club finished reading *Finding Fish*, a biography by Antwone Fisher. During the meeting on Jan. 25, the members discussed the emotion in the story. Early in the story, Antwone was in a foster family that he appreciated. His first foster parents were so nice, but later he had numerous foster parents who abused him. Some foster parents molested him, and he was treated differently based on his dark skin color because the rest of the children in the foster home were white.

"A few members told me they cried at the end of the book," Ms. Lewis said, adding that the story was very emotional. Throughout his life, he was treated horribly, yet he never took revenge. Marju Sotto, a book club member, found Antwone to be a role model. "He didn't want to be like his other foster siblings who were criminals, and he wanted to have an education and be a good influence on other people," said Marju.



John and Marcin fixing computers for the school.

MOUSEs Gain Experience

by Raymond Xue

MOUSE Squad is a group of C-Tech students that fix computers and laptops throughout the school. “This program in Queens Voc allows students to acquire communication and customer service skills by speaking with others and fixing network issues,” said Ms. Zagada, coordinator of MOUSE Squad. MOUSE Squad members usually work on computer problems during the week after school, and sometimes even on Saturdays. According to Abdul Khan, “It all depends on the schedule given to us by Ms. Zagada, but we only work three days a week and about two to three hours.”

MOUSE Squad members not only troubleshoots computers, but also utilizes methods to make the computers’ performance faster. “In MOUSE Squad we do not learn, we apply what we know and gain experience through hands-on work.”

The MOUSE Squad has been busy. “We enhanced some computers by installing AutoCAD for Mr. Raushan, and we set up computers in the attendance office and library, and for various teachers,” said Marcin Kochanek, a senior MOUSE Squad member. The MOUSE Squad installed four

new computers in the library. They also made Ethernet cables to connect the computers to the school network.

Senior MOUSE Squad member Azharul Islam said that he gets “working experience, so I will be prepared for future jobs. I like working with computers and figuring out how to fix them,” he said.

Marcin Kochanek said he joined MOUSE Squad because he needed 60 hours of work experience to get his CTE endorsed diploma.

Ms. Zagada was a MOUSE Squad member at a different high school and enjoyed her experience. Ms. Zagada decided to lead this program for one year, she said, because “it is a great opportunity to teach students about the real world of work, it’s not all about fixing computers, but more about dealing with interpersonal skills.”

The students currently in Mouse Squad are: Amin Al-Sayed, Richard Calle, Jennifer Chumbi, Syed Farooq, Azharul Islam, Amanda Iturralde, Abdul Khan, Marcin Kochanek, Ruhet Kumar, Thalia Pintado, Michal Piekarz, Raul Rosario, and Ken Zou.

According to Ms. Zagada, “some juniors were added so they could train the new MOUSE Squad members for the following next year.”

Mock Trial Team Advances: Hoping to Reach State Finals

by Diego Palacios

The Queens Voc Mock Trial team returns this year aiming to make it to the finals in the New York State competition.

The team, led by Mr. Davidson, started meeting in December and met up to three times a week in February, in room 109, to prepare for the competition. “The practices are fun and a great experience,” said Dachuan Dai, one of eight members of the Mock Trial team.

According to Mr. Davidson, this year’s team is made up of eight students: Sandy Abiad, Sadia Chowdhury, Dachuan Dai, Miguel Garcia, Chi Lung Hsu, Gabriella Martinez, Kimberly Pisfil, and Mokit Uddin. Mr. Davidson said he recruited among his classes and had announcements made throughout the school. The team was defeated by Bryant HS in the first round on Feb. 11. “Most of us were nervous,” said Mokit, adding, “we have to be more confident in ourselves for the next round.” Their second round took place on Feb. 26

against Richmond Hill. The rounds took place at the Queens Supreme Court, located in Kew Gardens.

[The newspaper was being published at the time of the second round.]

The students received help from Joshua Norkin, a lawyer who worked with them during their practice sessions. “I was on a mock trial team when I was young, and that’s what inspired me to become a lawyer,” said Mr. Norkin. As soon as he got off from work, he made his way to the school to provide advice and share his experiences with the students.

This year’s court case is called Morgan Martin v. CPU. The case consists of a student named Morgan Martin, who is suing the private for profit college, Cattaraugus Programming University, for deceptive business practices. He was given a fancy brochure that showed high quality features of the college. Morgan applied, was accepted, and took out a loan to pay for the college. After graduation, he could not find a good job and was in major debt. The university argued that he was partying instead of studying, and that he could

not get a job because of his low grades. Whose fault is it? Morgan’s or the university’s?

Students are graded on a scale of 1-5. They are graded based on how they used the facts to tie it to the case, how accurate their facts are, and their overall presentation. The student’s scores are added up and the schools with the highest scores advance to the next round. There are eight rounds in the competition. According to Mr. Davidson, last year the mock trial team made it only to the second round since they lost their first round. This year Mr. Davidson is aiming to make it to the third round or beyond.

The top 48 schools out of about 100 make it to round three of the competition. Then the schools will face each other in single round eliminations until the top four are left. The tournament semi-finals and finals will be held in Albany on May 20 and 21. The winner will be recognized in an award ceremony.

“The New York State competition has been around for 30 years and students get the chance to experience all the drama and excitement of a court trial,” said Mr. Davidson.

EI Wins the Battle

by Chi Lung Hsu

Mr. Vega’s Junior EI class won this year’s “battle of the shops.”

The month-long event, which ended on Jan. 4, is held to collect nonperishable food for City Harvest, a charity that distributes food to over 600 community groups through the five boroughs. I felt really nice because, my classes would compete and do well but we

would come out short, so its nice to win once in a while said Mr. Vega.

According to Mr. Vega, his class collected about 300 cans of food. He intends to take his class ice-skating as a reward. Although many of the shops participated, the results were miniscule compared to previous years, Mr. Vega said, because of Sandy relief efforts at Queens Voc which took place about the same time as the “battle of

the shop classes.” And maybe there was less enthusiasm.

The shop classes that participated were Ms. Zagada’s junior computer maintenance and repair class, Mr Garcia’s graphic arts class, Ms. Gross’s business class, Mr. Rodriguez’s senior computer maintenance and repair class, and Mr. Vega’s EI class.

This year Queens Voc gathered a thousand pounds of food.

Library “Card Catalog” Now Online

by Jose Recinos

Students and teachers can now look online to see what books are available in the school’s library.

The library, which has not had an old style card catalog system since the new addition was opened, now has an up-to-date electronic database that allows students to check books in the school library from any place they have internet access.


Ms. Lewis, the school librarian, ordered the program Destiny from the Follett Software Company, which provided her with a disc that included information on 40 percent of the library’s books. The other 60 percent have to be entered manually. She is working to have all of the approximately 9,000 books included in the database by the fall of 2013.


Students or staff who want


to check for a book, or who are interested in checking out the program, should go to the website library.nycenet.edu/. Links for the new book catalog system can also be found on Queensvoc.org and at the library blog: queensvoclibrary.blogspot.com.


“I am happy about the new system. It makes it easier to know what books are available,” Ms. Lewis said.


Find [Reset All](#)

 Keyword

 Title

 Author

 Subject

 Series

Narrow your search to... [Show Less](#) ▲

Location

Material Type

Award Winner ?

Reading Level From to

Interest Level From to ?

©2002-2012 Follett Software Company 2/23/2013 1:44 PM EST

ROSES ARE RED... THE POETRY CLUB



Ms. Himmel inspires students to express themselves.

by Andres Ospina

The poetry club has been meeting each week to “give students who enjoy poetry the chance to share their poetry, and to learn more about poetry,” said Ms. Himmel, who teaches English for the School of Skilled Building Trades, and is the poetry club advisor.

What the club does is not

choreographed. “It’s really about the students and what they want to do at the club,” said Ms. Himmel. The veteran teacher sees herself as the club’s facilitator, offering suggestions and setting up different events for the students who are in the Poetry Club. Currently, the poetry club members are getting to know one another and learning about poetry while

getting prepared for April, national poetry month.

The poetry club is open to students in all small learning communities and on all grade levels. Members are invited to bring poetry to the meeting to share with the club. Some members like to write their own poetry, others bring poems by other poets.

Sophomore Alex Perez said he enjoys the poetry club because of the diversity among students. “You really can’t judge a person based on appearances because they might look a certain way but when you see the way that person thinks through poetry, you see a different side,” he added. Sophomore Upasana Tyagi said being a member of poetry club is fun because she can express herself.

According to Ms. Himmel, not only do students share poetry with each other, students also learn different techniques and style by exploring the work of famous poets such as Maya Angelou, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, Sonia Sanchez, and Walt Whitman.

Making it R=AIN

by Luz Nunez

R=AIN members and freshman leadership students went to Frank Sinatra High School on Feb. 15, to watch a play called “Names that Hurt.” R=AIN advisor, Ms. Kurnitz, said the play, performed by Sinatra sophomores, would change students’ perspective on bullying. “Even though it’s acting, I think the kids would be really affected if they saw the emotions that can be caused by name-calling up close,” she said.

“I liked the play. I believe it taught viewers many things such as thinking about what to say and how it can hurt others,” said R=AIN member, Vasiki Konneh. The actors demonstrated topics such as name-calling, stereotypes, and the ways that bullying affects their life. “I always joke around a lot and I didn’t realize how much I can hurt someone until I saw the play,” said Vasiki. Another R=AIN member said that words do hurt and people don’t always think before they say them. “I thought the play made many people think twice about this topic,” said freshman, Helen Eng.

R=AIN had speaker Alex Lacasse from Live Out Loud at their meeting on Feb.12. Live Out Loud is an organization that spreads social justice with the help of people from networks

such as HBO. “Can you explain to the kids the meaning of social justice?” Ms. Kurnitz asked Alex. “Social justice is equal treatment to everyone without regarding their skin color, sexuality, or gender.” Alex had R=AIN members introduce themselves and speak about high points of their day and what they were hoping for in the future. “This will help us get warmed up and know a little bit about each other,” he said. He then had the students break up into groups with new and current members. “The groups had to write R=AIN’s strengths, weaknesses, and how they planned to keep the club strong so they’d be able to compare ideas with each other,” said Ms. Kurnitz. “I promoted R=AIN for almost a week by wearing my rainbow earrings,” said current member, Hilary Rios.

At the end of the meeting members discussed how they want to promote R=AIN and make the organization stronger. “This activity was successful because no one felt uncomfortable and we all have great ideas such as bake sales with logos to promote R=AIN,” said Vasiki. “We also thought of writing R=AIN’s actual meaning on flyers so people won’t feel you have to be a part of the LGBTQ, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning society, in order to be a member,” said Andi Syarifah.

Lights, Camera, Movie Night!

by Andres Cadavid

The SED leadership group held a Freshman Movie Night on Friday, Feb. 22. The smell of fresh popcorn filled the air as ninth graders gathered in the auditorium to see The Avengers on the big screen.

Students paid a \$3 admission fee, which included popcorn and bottled water.

Mr. Gallagher and Ms. Ferrara coordinated the movie night, and Mr. Elfreich stayed to help. They even moved a microwave oven into the auditorium to pop the popcorn.

Candy, chips, and soda were sold, just like in a movie theater. Ms. Ferrara said that the funds raised will be used for freshman activities.

Ms. Ferrara designed and printed the tickets, while Mr. Gallagher conducted a survey to see which movie the freshmen would like to watch. Freshmen were asked to choose among five movies: The Avengers, The Dark Knight Rises, Men in Black 3, The Amazing Spiderman, and The Hunger Games. Two hundred and eight students responded to the survey.

About 25 students attended the movie night. According to Mr. Gallagher, the students enjoyed the movie and seemed

SKILLS USA PREPARES TO COMPETE

by Andres Cadavid

Skills USA members are preparing for the state competition that will be held in Syracuse between April 24 and April 27.

In Syracuse, Queens Voc students will compete against students from throughout New York State. The students will compete in their CTE area of study. Students who place first, second, or third will move on to the national competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

Students Miguel Garcia and Arun Rai will be participating in an electronics competition known as Installations and Maintenance in Residential Systems. Arun said he is “really excited to compete in the Syracuse competition and for something I enjoy doing.”

To do well, the students are practicing in school with their CTE teachers. The practice time depends on the teachers’ and the students’ free time, said

Mr. Cintron, who is the Queens Voc’s Skills USA Advisor.

Ms. Ramdeo began assisting electronics Skills USA members such as Gabrielle Butler. “Training is hard,” Gabrielle said, “but will be worth it when I go to the competition.”

Mr. Cintron, Mr. Mugan, Ms. Ramdeo, Mr. Rivera, and Mr. Vega are mentoring the Skills USA students.

Mr. Cintron said he does not yet know how many Queens Voc students are going to the Syracuse competition and needs to wait for an official roster.

A New York City competition was supposed to be held on Feb 9, however, due to the snowstorm during that weekend, the competition was postponed to March 9. This competition gives students a chance to experience a Skills USA competition. “Teachers like myself,” Ms. Ramdeo said, “use this competition to decide who will go to the Syracuse competition.”



Edith practicing for SkillsUSA competition.

to have lots of fun. “We have not scheduled another movie night yet for the freshmen, but we may schedule another one in the future,” Mr. Gallagher said. One problem with having a movie night, said Ms. Ferrara, is that any movie we show has

already been seen by some of the students. “To get more students involved, we might have a game night or some other activity,” she said, pointing out that movie night was a success for the students and teachers who attended.



SED students selling goodies for future activities.

Inquiring Photographer

by Khiran Samsundar

If your life were turned into a movie, which actor would portray you? Why?

Serenity Gonzalez
Freshman



"Penelope Cruz, because she is sexy and has a Spanish accent."

Sally Santiago
Freshman



"John Travolta, because he played a women in Hairspray."

Tia Singh
Freshman



"Jennifer Lawrence, because she is brave and fierce and I would be an awesome white chick."

Which actor
would portray
you?

Tiffany Maya
Freshman



"Natalie Portman, because she is pretty and a good actress."

Giovanni Cruz
Freshman



"Channing Tatum, because he is sexy without a shirt."

Zeus Ramirez
Freshman



"Adam Sandler, because he is funny."

Htet Naing Aung
Sophomore



"Ryan Gosling, because he is a very good actor and I like him."

Melissa Carbo
Sophomore



"Shay Mitchell, because she is pretty and she's like my sister."

Fatima Veras
Sophomore



"Kevin Hart, because he is a funny dude and he would look amazing in a dress!"

Gabrielle Butler
Junior



"Jim Parsons, because he appears to be very intellectual."

Thalia Cia
Junior



"Haylie Duff, because she is an amazing actress and she would love to be me!"

Michael Timoney
Junior



"Adam Sandler, because I find him to be a good and very funny actor."

Kevin Hernandez
Junior



"Robert Downey Jr., because he is an awesome super hero and an amazing actor."

Maria Perez
Senior



"Shia Labeouf, because he has gorgeous eyes and he is a great actor."

Evan Dunkley
Senior



"Will Smith, because he is a great actor and I love his movies."

Sedia Muratovic
Senior



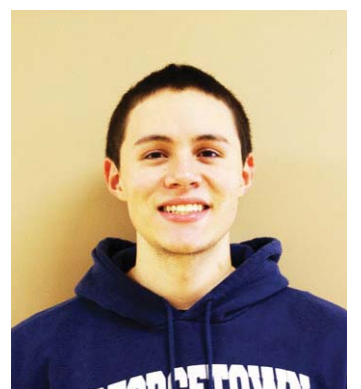
"Mila Kunis, because we both live life as it comes."

Denisse Abreu
Senior



"Emma Stone, because she can be weird and spontaneous and I like that, she's like my best friend!"

Jose Cabrera
Senior



"Jim Carrey, because he is freaking hilarious!"



If you have a question that we should ask for the next inquiring photographer article, please feel free to let us know:

Editor@vocvoice.org

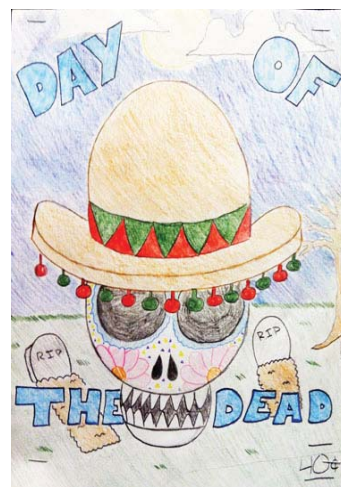
Queens Voc's Rising Artists



Jose Murudumbay



Christopher Ruiz



Alejandro Coytl



Caitlyn Padilla



Kenjy Abad



Dorothy Bailey



Mr. Petrelli's Art Class



Misael Cerezo



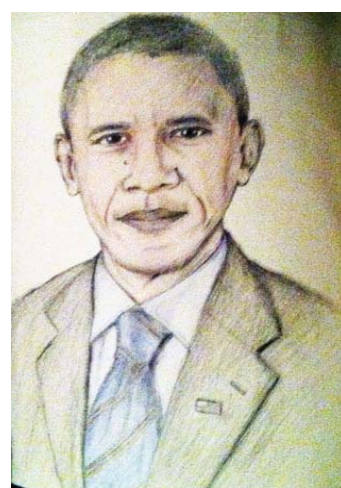
Sebastian Sanchez



Thiaralyn Objio



Ms. Miaoulis' Art Class



Judy Moy

What's in *Your* Bathroom? Cleanliness Goes Down the Drain

by Saul Cruz

Is that what you do at home? The cleanliness of the boys' and girls' restrooms at Queens Voc is horrendous. And that isn't the janitors' fault. It's the fault of some students.

Instead of doing their business in the toilet, some students "miss" the toilet and all their business ends up on the floor, or all over the seat. This is just in the boys' bathroom.

There's more to the bathroom nightmare. In the boys' bathroom, the sinks and toilets are frequently stuffed with toilet paper or paper towels, and the urinals are rarely flushed. Often, the toilets can't be flushed because of all the paper stuffed into them. Some students even take it upon themselves to "decorate" the wall above the urinal with vulgar language and graffiti.

Why do this to the school bathroom? Is it funny? No, it is atrocious. Would these students do this to their own bathroom? Probably not.

The janitors can't keep up with bathroom cleanliness. When they clean the bathroom, the next day the bathrooms are back to the same unsanitary condition.

Some female students at



Queens Voc claim that the girls' bathroom is worse than the boys' room. Senior Natalie Guanga said that she has seen used women's monthly hygiene pads on the floor as well as blood spots. "I hesitate to use the girls' bathroom sometimes," added Natalie.

No student should have to go the restroom and be exposed to such unsanitary conditions. Students should start to use the school bathroom correctly. If they care for their bathroom at home, why misuse the ones in the school that most students use? The only solution to this problem is to use positive peer pressure among the students themselves. Some students respond better to their friends telling them what to do than to a teacher or dean.

Lockers as Garbage Pails: More on Student Slobs

by Melissa D. Espinosa

Queens Voc students are using school lockers as garbage pails, a disgusting practice that attracts mice and roaches into the school.

Paper, partly empty food trays and packaging, and half-empty milk cartons and water bottles and soda cans can be found in many of the empty lockers throughout the school. Is it any better that some students use the halls and stairs as garbage pails? Our fellow students have to know that what they are doing is wrong. Yet they do it anyway.

It's not like there aren't enough garbage pails. According to Mr. Salazar, one of the school's janitors, there are approximately five-hundred trash cans and recycle bins in the school. Yet some students can't be bothered to hold their garbage long enough to locate one. Sure, there aren't many pails in the halls, but there are usually three pails right inside every classroom.

Should the unused lockers

be accessible for students to use as trash receptacles? No, but that's not the point.

Let's face it. Some of the students here have some disgusting habits. Their habits, however, impact us all. They make the school look dirty, and they draw bugs and rodents.

The solution is easy. Stop doing it. Students who see their friends throwing garbage on the floors or in lockers should encourage their friends to clean up their acts.

Queens Voc just had a respect for all week. Now it's time for all to respect their school.

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
Amin Al-Sayed
Marilynn Bonilla
Andres Cadavid
Andy Collado
Laura Duarte
Natanael Feitosa
Raymond Gomez
Chi Lung Hsu
Fatima Osman
Andres Ospina
Diego Palacios
Khiran Samsundar
Joseph Taveras

Contributors
Jessica Alcaide
Dorothy Bailey
Kimani Brown
Saul Cruz
Ashley Demoss
Melissa Espinosa
Jathzia Farro
Miguel Garcia
Isaiah George
Judy Moy
Xiomara Paredes
Jose Recinos
Crystal Scottborgh
Antonio Torres
Raymond Xue

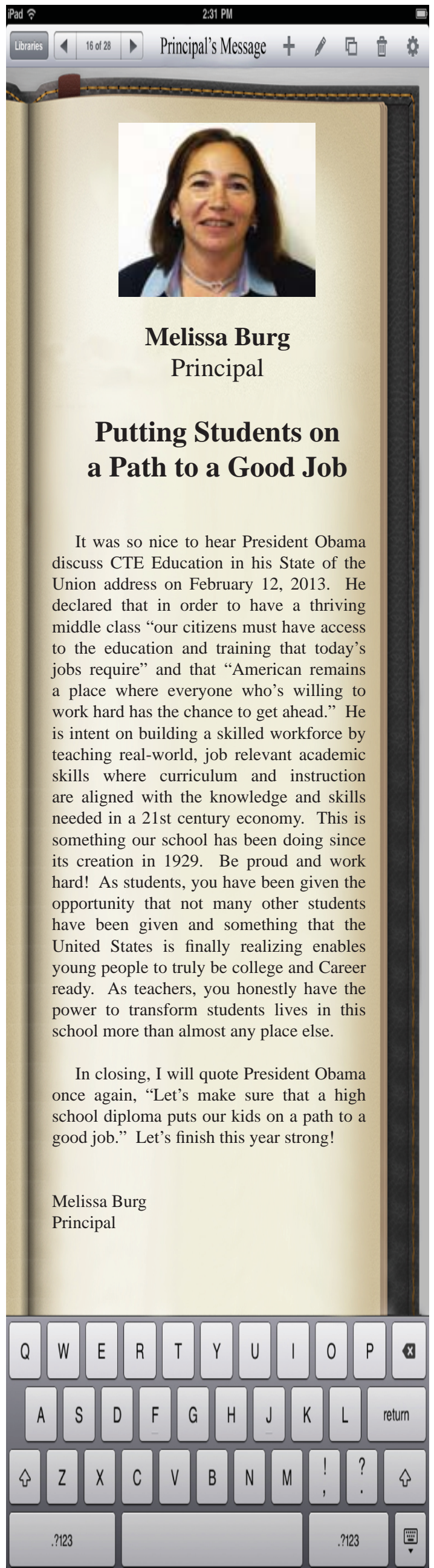
Photographs by:
Laura Duarte, Melissa Espinosa,
Raymond Gomez, Khiran
Samsundar, and Joseph Taveras

**"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.**



46 Cents
Mr. Schimenz
Main Office



WHO’S THE TEACHER?

by Marilyn Bonilla

1. This teacher was a DJ and a spoken word performer before teaching. He teaches science and has taught in Queens Voc for four years. He grew up in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois. His hobbies are running and writing poetry. He ran the five-borough marathon last year. He loves Queens Voc and is a mentor for the robotics team.
2. He is a social studies teacher who has taught in Queens Voc for seven years. He attended Old Saybrook High School in Connecticut, and Boston College. His hobbies are watching and playing sports, especially basketball. He enjoys listening to music and going to concerts. He loves to travel to his hometown and visit his family. He is a big Boston sports fan.

Queens Voc for four years. She attended Queens College, and taught social studies for eight years. She loves to salsa dance, spend time with her kids, and visit Puerto Rico. Her favorite place to visit is Brazil. Her repetitive phrase is “get to class!”

4. Apart from being a teacher, he is a real estate sales person. This teacher, from Greece, attended Bryant High School, and went to Hofstra University and Queens College. He lived in Las Vegas for a year and worked in a casino there. He loves to play sports, dance, and play “Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader” on his phone. His favorite place is Florence, Italy. He’s into trivia, specifically baseball trivia. He loves to eat anything his mother makes.

5. A math teacher who has taught in Queens Voc for 16 years. She attended Mt. Holyoke College. She is a horseback rider and a scuba diver. She considers herself a strict math teacher.

Answers can be found on page 16.

3. She has been working at

FACT OR FICTION?

by Crystal Scottborgh

1. _____ Elephants are afraid of mice.
2. _____ Lightning strikes the same place twice.
3. _____ A shrimp's heart is in its head.
4. _____ If you eat after 7pm you will gain weight.
5. _____ Rats and horses can't vomit.
6. _____ If you keep your eyes open by force when you sneeze, you might pop an eyeball out.
7. _____ Lipstick contains fish scales.
8. _____ A ball of glass will bounce higher than a ball of rubber.
9. _____ Guinea pigs and rabbits can't sweat.

10. _____ Athletes benefit from sports drinks like Gatorade.
11. _____ If you hold your thumb in one hand and stick your finger and touch the back of your throat, you will not gag.
12. _____ Basketball makes you taller.
13. _____ Petting a cat lowers a person's blood pressure as well as the cats.
14. _____ Hypnosis is a gateway to the unconscious mind.
15. _____ If you inhale a pea, it can sprout and grow in your lungs.

Answers can be found on page 16.

Embarrassing Stories

by Jose Recinos

One time my cousin and I were running on the treadmill. We got a little competitive and gradually turned up the speed. While I was running, my sneakers felt uncomfortable so I took them both off. Then I tried to get back on the treadmill without turning down the speed. I flew off the treadmill.

- Isaiah George

The whole class wanted me to do the dougie. I wasn't familiar with the dance and I was forced to do it. My friends were all laughing at me.

- Kanwardeep Singh

I wore two different shoes on my feet one day in January. I noticed it going up the stairs to my room. There was nothing I could do; I only had an extra

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

by Luz Nunez

We asked students about their New Year’s Resolutions

What is your New Year’s resolution?
Why is it so important to you?
How will it affect other plans/sacrifices?
Will it affect others around you?
Did you accomplish it?

Seniors
Seida Muratovic

Resolution: “I want to lose weight, it’s important to me because I want to stay healthy and I’ll feel better about myself. It’ll affect others because I won’t be able to hang out with friends and family as I usually do so it’s a sacrifice as well. I’ve been trying to work out but I need more time.”

Jessika Guerrero

Resolution: “I want to find a stable job. This is important to me because I’ll be independent. It’ll affect others by proving I am dedicated and I’ll have to sacrifice time but I wouldn’t mind. I did accomplish my resolution, now I have a job.”

Ruhet Kumar

Resolution: “I want to raise my GPA so I can get into John Jay. This is important because I want to go into the field of criminal justice and John Jay will give me a greater chance of that and more benefits. This will affect my mom and dad because they’ll be proud of me. I’d have to sacrifice my time to study and focus on school. I have been trying harder to achieve my goal.”

David Pena

Resolution: “I want to work out. This is important to me because I’ll feel better about myself. I had to sacrifice free time. This won’t affect others

around me and I haven’t been able to start but I’m planning on achieving my goal soon.”

Juniors
Natalie Trujillo

Resolution: “I want to stop being late to class. It’s important to me because it’ll make me look professional and will get me ready for the real world. I’d have to wake up extra early and sacrifice the amount of time I have to be out and watch TV. I have been coming to class earlier ever since I made that my resolution.”

Sofia Bonilla

Resolution: “I want to go to the gym so I can get into the shape I want. This is important to me because it’ll make me feel better. I have to get money in order to accomplish this. It won’t affect others, it will only affect the way I feel. I only have to sacrifice time. I did accomplish my resolution by joining the gym.”

Joseph Peterson

Resolution: “I want to get an 80 and above in all my classes. This is important because I’ll do well in school. It wouldn’t affect others. I would have to sacrifice my time to play the drums. I’ve slightly accomplished my resolution”

Joan Mulato

Resolution: “I wanted to get my license. This is important because people around me have their own car and this motivated me. I had to sacrifice my time with friends to practice, save for gas, so I needed to get a job. I accomplished my resolution and it feels good.”

Sophomores
Melissa Carbo

Resolution: “I want to work out. I have to do this by joining a gym which will cause me to sacrifice my time to join a team

and my time to spend with friends. I have worked out but I still would like to join a gym and exercise more often.”

Ariel Gomez

Resolution: “I want to score higher on my regents. This is important to me because I’ll have a good score for college. I’d have to sacrifice my free time in order to study. I did accomplish my resolution by scoring higher but I could’ve done better.”

Nathaniel Alexander

Resolution: “I want to get higher grades. This is important because I’ll have a better reputation. I can accomplish this by being in school more. I had to sacrifice my free time to do better. I have accomplished my resolution in certain classes.”

Jared Martinez

Resolution: “I want to work harder overall. This is important because I have to get better grades and it will make me feel better. I’d have to sacrifice time to study. I do feel like I’ve worked harder at everything, it’s paid off.”

Freshmen
Yetzi Garcia

Resolution: “I want to raise my grades. This is important because I’ll make my parents and myself proud. I have to sacrifice texting, television time, and hanging out. I have raised my grades and I’m happy.”

Vasiki Konneh

Resolution: “I want to do better in school but I feel like I don’t need it to be a resolution; I can just work at it daily. It’s always been important to me and I sacrifice time to go over my work. I’m proud of myself because I’m dedicated enough to keep my grades where I want them”

pair of slippers in the car. No one noticed it because they were both black. Mr. Alikakos then announced over the walkie-talkie in the afternoon that “Ms. Newman has different shoes on.”

-Ms. Newman

I was teaching class and there was a stool behind me. I didn’t see it and I fell over the stool. The whole class started laughing at me. I was bright red and laughing with the class.

-Ms. Volpe

I was in Canberra, Australia in July, which is their winter. My hotel had a swimming pool on the second floor and my room was on the third floor.

After I took a swim, I thought I would go back up to my room by taking the stairs to the third floor. When I got to the third floor, I couldn’t open the door. I went down to the second floor and I couldn’t open that door either. I went down to the first floor, took a chance and went through the emergency exit that led to the street. It was winter, the temperature was 30 degrees Fahrenheit, and I was on the streets of downtown Canberra wearing nothing but a wet bathing suit. I had to walk about half a block to get to the main entrance of the hotel.

- Mr. Davidson

My most embarrassing

moment was when I missed the tying shot against Queens Complex High School and cried in front of everyone.

- Steve Escorza

I got a video of myself getting a wedgie. My underwear was showing and unfortunately, so was my butt. This is the most embarrassing moment of my life.

- Omar Silva

One of my most embarrassing moments was when I was playing handball and my pants ripped in half. My boxers were showing and I had to walk home and change into new pants.

- Richard Vega

Video Game Reviews for Hardcore Gamers

by Andres Cadavid

Resident Evil Operation Raccoon City

Resident Evil Operation Raccoon City is a third person survival/shooter game. The story of the game takes place between Resident Evil 2 and Resident Evil 3, after the initial outbreak of the T-Virus. This game puts the gamer into the shoes of the Umbrella Security Service that is tasked to destroy all evidence linking the Umbrella Corporation with the T-Virus.

In the story mode, the gamer’s AI (artificial intelligence) partners are extremely useless, because they do not have the ability to shoot at enemies, revive the gamer, and they easily fall into enemy traps such as landmines. They are more trouble than they are worth. There is also a glitch in the game. The gamer can shoot an entire clip at the enemies and they might not die. Other times, a couple of bullets will kill them. The story is also incredibly short.

Operation Raccoon City also has four game modes in multiplayer: Deathmatch, Heroes, Survivor, and

Biohazard. In Deathmatch mode a team of four kills enemy players and zombies to get the most points. In Heroes mode the gamers are playing as famous Resident Evil characters and must kill the other players. In Survivor mode the gamers rush to an evacuation point and get inside the helicopter, but not everyone fits. In Biohazard mode the gamers search for a container of the T-virus before the other team finds it. All of these modes are okay but are too familiar to experienced gamers. Despite these negatives, the graphics are pretty good for a third person shooter. Resident Evil Operation Raccoon City could have been a much better game if it hadn’t been for it’s bad AI and familiar multiplayer. Operation Raccoon City gets 5.0/10.

Farcry3

Farcry 3 is a first person shooter that brings to the table a beautiful scenery of graphics. It’s visulas present a good array of colors.

Farcry 3 is about a man named Jason Brody and his five friends who were captured by natives of Rook Island. Jason escapes and must find his

friends while being pursued by the natives sent by the antagonist Vaas. To survive, Jason must craft items to kill natives and animals. The single player campaign is quite long and entertaining. The gamer can explore the whole island, undertake missions and sidequests, buy guns, skin animals, learn new skills, and more. The controls are so easily manageable that the casual gamer will learn them in less than five minutes or one minute if the gamer is very experienced. The casual gamer can beat it between 20 and 25 hours.

The Co-Op mode in Farcry 3 lets the gamer undertake missions with a person online or with a buddy next to the gamer. These missions require teamwork to complete. For example, one person plants the bomb while another person cover fires. Co-Op mode brings out the teamwork skills. The multiplayer is the game’s weakness. It has the familiar game modes. There is Team Deathmatch, Domination, Firestorm, and Transmission. Participants in Team Deathmatch kill enemy players as part of a team. In Domination mode, the gamers

capture flags and defends the flags. In Firestorm mode, the gamers burn the enemy’s supplies and captures their base. Transmission mode is similar to Domination mode in which

the gamer must capture radios and defend them but the catch is that they spawn anywhere on the map. These modes are too familiar for experienced players. Farcry 3 gets 9.0/10.

Color-Scopes

Let your color tell you something about yourself!

by Ashley DeMoss

you are instinctive.

Green Aries

(March 21 – April 19)

You are a very positive person but you have a lot of negative encounters with people who you choose to surround yourself with. You have a “green mind set” which means your mind is based on balance and growth.

Blue Taurus

(April 20 – May 20)

You are a person a lot people will trust with their secrets and valuables. You have a “blue spirit” which means loyalty and integrity.

Pink Gemini

(May 21 – June 21)

You are a very funny person. You please people without worrying about yourself. You love to make people smile even if that means that you’re using up all the energy you have. You have a “pink personality,” which means that you’re silly and a tad immature.

Purple Cancer

(June 22 – July 22)

You are the kind of person who loves to experiment and try new ways of doing work for yourself. You are very creative and don’t really take criticism personally but you consider it. You don’t like traditional ways but you like to make your work more modern. You have a “purple demeanor,” which means you’re a creative individual.

Orange Leo

(July 23 – Aug. 22)

You are a very outgoing person. You love meeting new people and you aren’t shy when it comes to introducing yourself. You’re what some might call unique because you stand out from the ordinary. You have “orange aura,” which means you’re optimistic and socially strong.

Indigo Virgo

(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

You are very understanding; the person people shouldn’t mind talking to about their personal issues. You tend to be the first person people will run to about any and everything. You are calm and very effective when it comes to “hearing people out.” You have an “indigo intuition,” which means

Red Libra

(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

You like to change and do something new every day. People will never catch you wearing or doing something twice because you are easily distracted and get bored within days of doing something repeatedly. You like to do it your way without questions, comments, or concerns about it. You are a “red head,” which means you are exciting but controlling.

White Scorpio

(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

You are a perfectionist. You like things to be perfect, from your room being clean to your work being neat. You don’t settle and you don’t compromise. Finishing everything you start without procrastination is a must. You have a “white soul,” which means you’re pure and complete.

Brown Sagittarius

(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

You care for people, places, and Mother Nature as well as yourself. Some people consider you a big brother or big sister figure in their lives. You are somebody who won’t be forgotten. You have a “brown atmosphere,” which means you are the person everyone wants around.

Gold Capricorn

(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

You stay focused on goals and you are motivated by your achievements. You are associated with luxury, quality, extravagance and sophistication. You have a “gold eye,” which means you’re determined.

Gray Aquarius

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

You can’t make up your mind whether to go left or right. You stay open for suggestions but never take any of them into consideration. You have a “gray shell,” which means you’re tough to get to.

Turquoise Pisces

(Feb. 19 – March 20)

You like to make yourself understood. You want to be heard and make sure you get your point across. You are very argumentative. You have a “turquoise mouth,” which means communication and clarity of the mind.

Word Search: Sports Terms

by Judy Moy

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

ATHLETES
BASEBALL
BASKETBALL
BOWLING
COACHES

FLAGFOOTBALL
JERSEY
SOCCER
SOFTBALL
TEAMS

TIGERS
VARSITY
VOLLEYBALL
WRESTLING
HANDBALL

How to Apply for College

An interview with Ms. Abrams

by Dorothy Bailey

Are students prepared to apply for college?

Many students aren’t because they are the first ones in their family who are going to college. No one has really prepared them for what they have to do. That’s why I’m available to help students and take them through the process.

What are the different types of college applications? Where can they be found?

Most schools have students apply electronically, so the applications are online. The City University of New York provides a paper worksheet. Students who complete that worksheet have all the information they need to apply.

What colleges can students apply for?

Schools such as CUNY, SUNY, other state schools, private colleges, religious schools, and trade schools. There are two-year colleges such as community colleges and junior colleges, and four-year colleges.

What are the deadlines for these applications? What happens if students miss the deadlines?

The deadlines vary depending on whether you are applying for Early Action/Early Decision, which would have been in October or November. Generally, it makes sense to apply early because then you would have a better chance of getting accepted to that school. Most college acceptances are

on a rolling basis. As colleges look at applications they accept students. Deadlines have been changed because of Hurricane Sandy. However, you have to check with each school.

Another reason to apply early is that admissions to certain programs fill up quickly. For instance, the Veterinary Technology program is very popular at LaGuardia. If students miss the deadlines to apply, they are less likely to be accepted into the school. If it’s a very firm deadline, then the student won’t be considered and will have to wait another semester to apply.

When do students find out if they are accepted to a college?

Students who didn’t apply for Early Decision should hear about college acceptances between January and April. Students who applied for Early Decision should have already heard back from the college.

What do students need to apply for college? How can they apply?

They need a transcript, their family’s financial information, and the completed application. Sometimes, they also need a letter of recommendation and/or a personal statement or essay.

Is there anything else that you’d like to tell students?

I encourage all seniors to come to see me as soon as possible because it’s not too late. I’m here on Tuesdays and Thursdays. My email is: stephanieabrams12@gmail.com.

MOVIE REVIEW

by Natanael Feitosa

Les Misérables the musical has been successfully made into a movie. Les Mis the movie was released in theaters on Dec. 25. It has a well-developed plot and great acting. Les Mis is based on a French novel written by

Victor Hugo.

The movie starts with the two main characters, Javert, played by Russell Crowe, and Jean ValJean, played by Hugh Jackman, in France after the first French revolutionary war. Jean, along with other prisoners, is pulling an 18th century War Frigate into dock. After the ship is brought in to dock, a rivalry develops between Jean and Javert.

Through the exchange of dialog, viewers will notice

that Jean is a person who puts human needs over the law, and that Jarvert only cares for the law.

Because it is a musical, there is barely any spoken word; all the characters sing their lines. The actors are very convincing and their acting helps the audience keep up with the story. Overall I rate this movie a 9 out of 10 because it had great acting, good music, and a well-developed plot, but there were some boring scenes.

Advice Column

by Isaiah George

Dear Isaiah: I’m curious to know what love is.

Dear Lost Lover: Love by my standards is an unidentifiable, unrecognized feeling about your mate; where you don’t quite know how you feel, you smile for no reason in their presence, you feel safe, at ease and tranquil. You don’t ever want to see your mate sad and you always want to be there with them.

Dear Isaiah: I’d like to know, how can I impress someone?

Dear Lonely Loner: I think you should be yourself , but don’t reveal things about your personality that only your friends you’re comfortable with know; give time for that to come out after you have the attention of the person you’re interested in. Also don’t be pushy, don’t make it seem like you’re trying to impress the person, be subtle.

Dear Isaiah: How do I break up with someone?

Dear Harshly Tender: My advice to you is to be gentle yet firm while you end a relationship. Oh and do it in person , a text message or phone call may be easier, but it’s quite harsh and puts you in a negative light. Take heed of the others feelings, be considerate.

Word Scramble

by Dorothy Bailey

Theme: Queens Voc

1. asllm innlarge tmomcyuin

2. ubrmlpe

3. tuocmrep

4. tceooylsgmo

5. phargic tarits

6. cholripssha

7. tsshprasiponm

8. tteedpranm

9. tleraiccle nsaiilolatnt

10. siusesbn

- 1) small learning commu-
nity
2) plumber
3) computer
4) cosmetology
5) graphic artist
- 6) scholarship
7) sportsmanship
8) department
9) electrical installation
10) business

Answers

Book Review: Finding Fish by Antwone Fisher

by Raymond Xue

Finding Fish is the memoir of Antwone Fishers’ miraculous journey from abandonment to extraordinary success.

Baby Boy Fisher was raised in institutions from the moment his mother gave birth to him in prison. After beginning his life in an orphanage, Antwone was placed in a temporary foster home until he was two, then

transferred to a second foster home. It was there, over the next 15 years, that he endured emotional abandonment and physical abuse. Removed from this foster home not long before his 16th, Antwone got new parents who were just abusive as his old previous parents. He felt he was badly mistreated, so he left home and became homeless.

This book is well written.

The scenes touch people’s hearts and allows the reader to visualize the events that really happened. Antwone’s story is inspiring and a great reminder that good can come from even the crappiest of circumstances in life. The author creates tear-jerking scenes through the sadness that is portrayed. This book can show how one should appreciate his or her lives more.

Poet’s Section

by Laura Duarte

The Hardships of Distance by Andy Urueta

Distance can be a cruel mistress, a test on time to seek, to search for love can be hard to find.

A cloud of uncertainty has risen upon us demoralized.

For the truth of distance be told in the grim term.

So let me wish for our love to be righteous and served.

As well vibrant for in love ultimately there shall be no tyrant.

We’ve accomplished so much, but the prime being awoken with the warm sensation of love.

Thus our love be told in trust from that or genuine.

Now love be dearest for the path ahead we embrace.

Oh how I hope to soon be in the presence of your precious grace.

Natal by Juan Montana

Thus the wind takes its natural course and gently breeze by beauty everywhere.

Just look up and stare at the sky.

To be alert, to be aware, to love, and truly care.

To be strong even when I falter to change my days to be brighter I call it alter.

I can find the world appalling and when I am overwhelmed I find myself falling.

What is needed is to triumph to repel what keeps me down.

I can be happy and attain a peaceful sound.

Truth of Love by Johanna Torres

Romeo and Juliet lost their lives.

Beauty saw beast die.
Cinderella lost her slipper.

Sleeping Beauty couldn’t wake.

Love is full of hurt.

Convivial by Christian Lopez

I miss your smile, your laughter, and your touch and no matter how much time we spend together it’s never enough.

You keep my heart pumping fast and constant with just that smile that brightens my day.

Lately though you have been drifting away and falling far from me.

No worries because I make sure to hold on to what I have which is why I’m there to catch you when you fall.

I hold you once again in my arms and cherish you for who you are.

You never leave my mind and as the time progresses I only fall for you more and more.

The Power of... by Robert Gonzalez

The power of a gun can kill.

The power of fire can burn.

The power of wind can chill.

And the power of the mind can learn.

The power of anger can rage inside you, until it tears you apart.

But the power of a smile

Especially yours can heal a frozen heart.

Wishing by Melanie Acevedo

If you had one wish.... would you wish for fame?

If you won the lottery would you buy the world?

If you had the world would you want more?

If you only had one life to live would you ask forgiveness?

If you had one more chance to live would you respect it all?

Stars by Wendy Garcia

When you wish upon a star you wish only last a life time.

When you wish on a wishing well it only lasts a year.

When you wish upon a four leaf clover it only last a month

But wish with your heart that may last forever.

I did not know by Mauricio Rivera

I did not know that happiness existed.

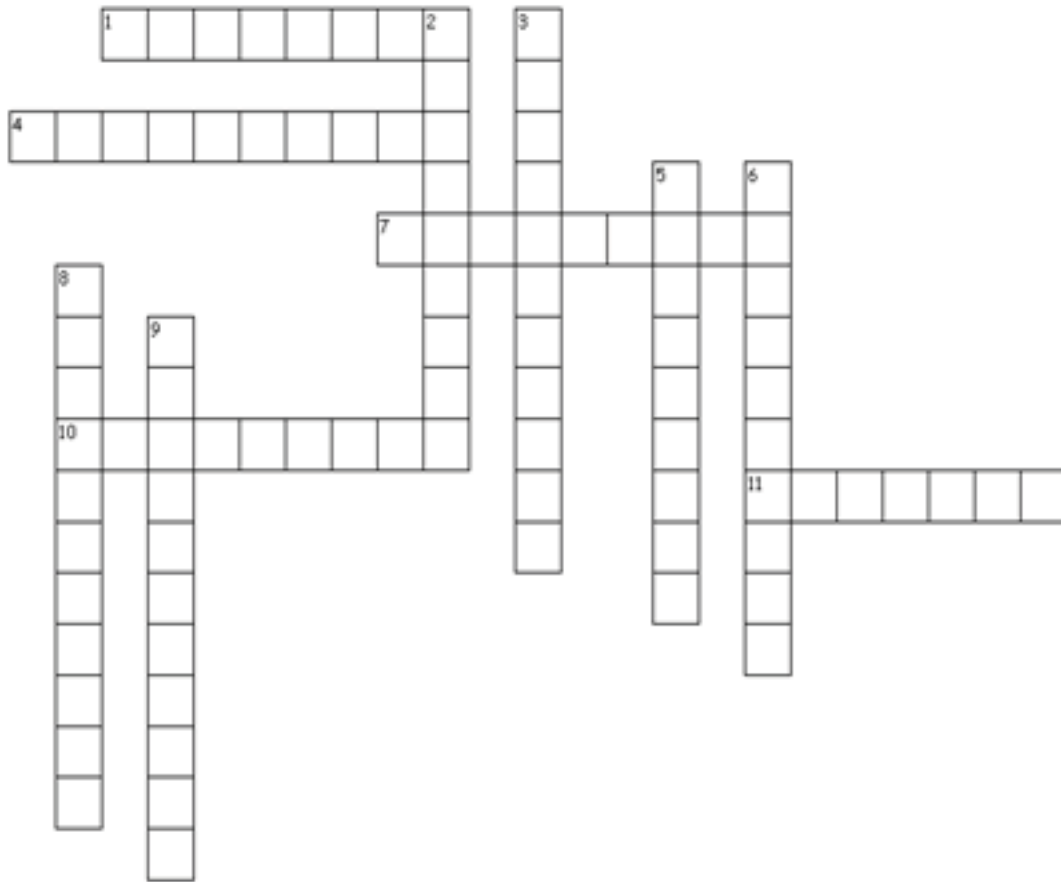
I did not know dreams existed.

I did not know love existed.

Until I met you.

Send us your poems.
Editor@
VoiceVoc.org

Crossword Puzzle



Good Luck to RoboTigers on their upcoming competition, March 7-9.

by Jessica Alcaide

- Across**
- Installing pipes and tanks is some work done in _____.
 - Place where many people face the same direction. We have one in Queens Voc.
 - Place where food is served.
 - Where teachers teach and students learn.
 - Instructor you learn from.

- Down**
- Originally, in ancient Greece functioned as a training facility for competitors in public games. The name comes from the Ancient Greek and means naked.
 - A profession that takes place in a salon. One of the shops in Queens Voc.
 - Person with the highest authority in a school.
 - Where graduated cylinders, beakers, and test tubes are used.
 - The study of devices

such as resistors, diodes, and LEDs.
9. A shop in Queens Voc where creative designs are drawn.

Answers to Puzzles

Fact or Fiction

- Fiction
- Fact
- Fact
- Fact
- Fiction
- Fiction
- Fact
- Fact
- Fact
- Fact
- Fiction
- Fact
- Fiction
- Fiction
- Fact

Who’s the Teacher:

- Mr. Esguerra
- Mr. MacDonald
- Ms. Ocampo
- Mr. Stefanidis
- Ms. Watkins

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Joseph Taveras

Jenelle Perrucci



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 1

"She has a great attitude toward herself when playing during a game. Has an ability that shocks everyone when playing." - Denisse Carbo

"After not making the team last year, Jenelle came back this year on a mission, and she established herself as a member of the A team."

- Coach Garofano

Brenda Taveras



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Brenda is a very powerful bowler and gets the team motivated. She always cheers for everyone." - Nichole Perez

"Although new to the sport, Brenda was able to pick up bowling fairly quickly and for that reason she became a starting member of the B team."

- Coach Garofano

Priya Seejor



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 2

"When it came to bowling she worked hard and it was beneficial."

- Ashley Fernandez

"Priya substantially improved over the last two years. She was a productive member of the B team."

- Coach Garofano

Tiffani Scanlon



Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 2

"She is a very aggressive basketball player with great skill."

- Na Zheng

"Tiffani has great basketball skills and is a great all around player. I wish she would've had played all 4 years."

- Coach Devaux

Denisse Carbo



Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"She is a great motivator and is very committed to the game. She can also shoot the 3-point shot well."

- Melissa Carbo

"Denisse is a great athlete that is always upbeat and is a great teammate. I wish she played for other years."

- Coach Devaux

Nabila Parnella



Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"A great team support and always tries her best."

- Jasmine Torres

"It was Nabila's first year on the team she picked up the game pretty fast. She is a good athlete and a good on ball defender."

- Coach Devaux

Sabrina Spiecker



Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 2

"She is very athletic, a good leader and teammate that makes the team better."

- Melissa Carbo

"Sabrina is team captain. She is a hustler and a great defender. She is everything I want in a player."

- Coach Devaux

Dorothy Bailey



Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 3

"Sweetest girl on the team and has gotten better."

- Yadira Perez

"Dorothy has been a great team player for the past 3 years and she understands the game. She works very hard and tries to improve."

- Coach Devaux

Ashley Demoss



Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 3

"She is straight to the point and will tell you how it is towards basketball."

- Yadira Perez

"Ashley improved a lot since her sophomore year on the team and always puts 100% effort."

- Coach Devaux

Shannon Zinser



Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 2

"She is a great 3 point shooter and very cooperative with the team."

- Na Zheng

"Shannon is a really good basketball player, great shooter, has great knowledge, and has the best passing skills on the team."

- Coach Devaux

Mateus Braga

Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 3

"Mateus has great ball control and he has improved through the years."

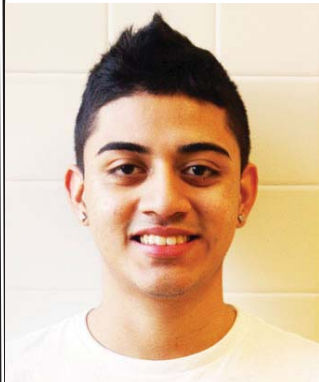
- Miguel Caicedo

"He gives 110 percent."

- Coach Ali



Kevin Alarcon



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 2

"Kevin helps out a lot in defense and strong at clearing the ball."

- Jeffrey Montoya

"He is a defensive player and mid-fielder who played with a lot of dedication."

- Coach Ali

Jeffrey Montoya

Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 2

"Jeffrey was a great defensive player that had his head in the game all the time."

- Andres Puli

"He plays defensive wing. He has improved over the past three years to be a starter for the team."

- Coach Ali



SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

Amin Al-Sayed



Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 2

"He is a great basketball player that was on the team last year and has come in the clutch many times. He is a complete basketball player who plays both sides of the ball very well."

- Phillip Gooding

"Amin the team captain has very good court awareness and has improved tremendously from his first year."

- Coach Maloney

by Joseph Taveras

Joseph Taveras



Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"For a player who doesn't play basketball, he had a big affect on our team. He has more talent than most of the players on the team."

- Adam Todorovic

"Joseph is a player with tremendous potential. Unfortunately he only played one year. He is an outstanding sixth man off the bench."

- Coach Maloney

Esteve Escorza



Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 2

"He is a great player and helped the team win games."

- Phillip Gooding

"Esteve has stepped up his game and is a major contributor to the team. It would be nice to have him another year."

- Coach Maloney

Leander Barrios



Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"He has one of the best jump shots on the team, very committed, and could be dangerous. He just needs to work on his handle."

-Adam Todorovic

"Leander is a first year player with a real good attitude about basketball and he can shoot the rock."

-Coach Maloney

Eamon Mansfield



Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"He has a great heart and steps up when he needs to. I wish we could have had him earlier in the season."

- Harsimar Jassar

"Eamon joined the team late and has been a solid contributor as a rebounder."

- Coach Maloney

Evan Dunkley



Team: Boys' Varsity
Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"He is the only lefty on the team and is a good ball player."

- Rick Lim

"Evan is the teams 'big guy' who learned quickly how to play the center. I would like one more year with him."

- Coach Maloney

Yannis Pascal



Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"My best friend on the team and he has improved his game a lot."

- Tremayne Jenkins

"Yannis is a great kid who knows the game of basketball well and gives 100% on the court."

- Coach Maloney

Tremayne Jenkins



Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"He is a very fast, great defensive, and a good team player."

- Harsimar Jassar

"Tremayne is a first year player with point guard skills on a team with many guards."

- Coach Maloney

Antonio Torres



Team: Boys' Varsity
Basketball
Years on Team: 1

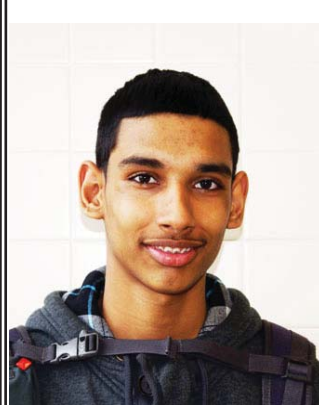
"He is a great 3-point shooter."

- Leander Barrios

"Antonio takes pride in his shooting and has a great attitude towards basketball."

- Coach Maloney

Ruhet Kumar



Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"Not such a great player but gave 100 percent every time he had a chance to play."

- Rick Lim

"Ruhet is a great kid with a good attitude with his role on the basketball team."

- Coach Maloney

Jonathan Henry

Team: Boys'
Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"He is an extremely energized player and helped the team throughout the season."

- Ruhet Kumar

"Guard on a team that has too many guards and improved his skills throughout the year."

- Coach Maloney



Health Tips

by Andy Collado

Here's how to stay healthy:

- Eat breakfast to be well-fueled. Fruit slices with cheese or peanut butter are good choices.
- Eat small, easily digested snacks to provide energy throughout the whole day.
- Before working out, eat carbohydrates such as whole grain crackers and cereal.

- After working out, drink protein such as low fat milk and yogurt smoothies.
- Don't skip meals.
- The harder you train, the more calories you must consume.
- Stay hydrated. You should drink a minimum of six cups of water a day. Avoid drinks that are high in sugar.
- A handful of nuts will provide you with a good source of healthy fats, proteins, and minerals.

- Read food labels. Know what you're putting into your body. "Energy" foods that list sugar as the first ingredient are likely not the healthiest choice.
 - Sleep is vital in maintaining a refreshed body. On average, a human body needs 7-9 hours of sleep a day.
 - Do not do drugs or consume alcoholic beverages because they harm you physically and mentally.
- Follow these tips to be healthy!

Wrestling Team Finishes First



Coach Z runs a tight ship--and the results are obvious.

continued from back page

standard, 138 pound class. Mr. Zambrotta said Frank could have placed higher if it hadn't been for a "logistical error" that could not be fixed; he "missed his report time for the match." Tomas placed fourth in the City Championship. He wrestled in the 126 pound weight class. Frank had a broken clavicle and was not able to wrestle.

Throughout the season "the team gave up 12 points at the stat because it didn't have wrestlers in 99 and 106 pound weight classes," said Mr. Zambrotta. He also said that those weight classes are often filled by girls. Other schools, he said, have more girls on their teams and they are more likely to have wrestlers in these classes. "More girls in Queens Voc should be interested in

wrestling. They have more opportunities than guys; there are more college scholarships for female wrestlers" he said. Mr. Zambrotta said that another problem was that not all the wrestlers take the sport seriously and this hurts the team. Yet, the coach was very happy with the results this season.

To be part of the team, students must meet PSAL eligibility requirements. Next year, those requirements are going to be tougher, reducing the number of days students can be absent and the number of classes they can fail. Students also have to meet Mr. Zambrotta's requirements, which are "to work on their grades, work hard, and be dedicated."

The captains of the team this year were Tomas Duarte, Frank Cornier, and Emir De La Cruz. Tomas was appointed captain last year. He said he was chosen because "the coach saw I have leadership skills and the ability to help others improve with their wrestling

skills." Frank Cornier said he and Tomas were appointed captains because last year they "stepped up and coached the team everyday" during coach Zambrotta's absence. They "trained hard and kept the wrestlers motivated," said Frank. Mr. Zambrotta said captains have to set an example for the new wrestlers and assist the coach during practice to make sure everyone is doing what's right to be ready for the matches and tournaments.

Over the course of the season, 24 students participated in league matches. They are: Alexander Aguilar, Hamail Arshad, Jordan Balcacer, Sahoniel Batista, Kevin Brito, Jesse Clark, Frank Cornier, Nicholas Cornier, Emir De La Cruz, Juan Diaz, Tomas Duarte, Robert Gonzales, Kenneth Jimenez, Raynier Leroux, Sebastian Lupercio, Valentin Martinez, Jose Munoz, Andres Murillo, Michael Murphy, Gabriel Nana, David Pena, Diony Trejo, Monica Vega, and Michael Zea.

Tough Season

continued from back page

Many of the players on the team were confident they could have made the playoffs. "If we stayed focused and confident, we would have made it," said Joseph Taveras, a rookie senior.

"Adam stepped up a lot; he was scoring lights out," said Amin. Coach Maloney agreed. "Adam's skills improved since he was on the JV basketball team. He is a very confident point guard," the coach said.

"Both Amin and Esteve showed leadership on and off the court. Their skill levels are what people, who may be on the team next year, should try and work at," said Coach Maloney.

Adam agreed they have good skills, but he said, "Amin and Esteve should have taken things much more seriously. They allowed players on the team to fool around when they should have been practicing their basketball skills."

"On the team this year, there are nice kids. I don't have to worry about the kids' grades, attitude, or teacher complaints, unlike last year when I had a lot of that," the coach said.

Coach Maloney said the starters include seniors: Amin Al-Sayed, Evan Dunkley, Esteve Escorza, Joseph Taveras, and juniors: Phillip Gooding, Rick Lim, and Adam Todorovic. Other senior members of the team are Leander Barrios, Jonathan Henry, Ruhet Kumar, Eamon Mansfield, Yannis Pascal, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Antonio Torres, and Ken Zou. The last player on the team is junior, Harsimar Jassar.

Some players were highly complementary of their coach. "He is a great coach, made us work hard and when he wanted to get his point across, he did," said Leander.

"I accepted every junior or senior that wanted to play. If they showed me what they could do when it was their turn to, they would have been able to play in games more often." Next year most of the team will be gone because most of the players are seniors. Coach Maloney allows anyone to try out for the team, however, he said, "freshmen and sophomores may not be at a varsity skill level. JV is the place to prepare to be on varsity."

With starters Adam, Phillip, and Rick staying for another season, Coach Maloney believes he has key veterans who can help the team improve next year.

Another Playoff

continued from back page

on the court, Coach Devaux turned to Sabrina Spiecker as captain to help coordinate the team. She said the team works well together on the defensive end but have to work on their offense continuity.

"Since we lost a lot of our players [from last season], it affected our team chemistry," Sabrina said. "It's my job as captain to make sure everyone does what they're supposed to and to keep the team together as a family."

Lucila Cortes said the girls "have been playing well, but we had a lot of work to do in order for us to make it this far," Lucila Cortes said about this season.

Na Zheng said her "goals

were to have another undefeated season, but things didn't go as well as we hoped it would. We still are good defensively and athletically, but we make mental mistakes that affect the outcome of games."

The team consists of seniors Dorothy Bailey, Denisse Carbo, Ashley Demoss, Tiffani Scanlon, Sabrina Spiecker, Brenda Taveras, Dayana Zamora, and Shannon Zinser. Also on the team are Jasmine Torres, Melissa Carbo, Lucila Cortes, Yadira Perez, Monica Puspasari, Katelynn Santiago, Na Zheng and Xi Zheng.

This season Na Zheng led the team in scoring averaging 13.73 points a game. The top rebounder is Jasmine Torres with an average of 7.80 per game. Tiffani Scanlon led the



Girls take a break during Coaches vs. Cancer game.

team in assists with two per game.

Mr. Maloney, the athletic director, coached the girls' team for one game because coach Devaux was on the senior trip. Mr. Maloney said "it was a great experience to coach the girls and I happy we played

well and won the game."

Looking ahead to the next few years, coach Devaux said he sees a lot of potential with his freshmen and sophomores. He said if they stay on team and grow together, they will develop into great basketball players.

Coach Garofano's Girls' Flag Football Team Prepares for a New Season

by Antonio Torres

The Lady Tigers finished their first season of 2011-2012 with a 4-4 record, placing them third in the Queens Division. Coach Garofano has been coaching the flag football team since its inception, and has high hopes for the upcoming 2013 season.

Both the coach and the returning players from the first season are looking to be more productive this season.

According to Mr. Garofano, some of the returning players

are Denisse Carbo, Zinnia Munoz, Nabila Parnella, Brenda Taveres, and Na Zeng, among others.

Denisse, a veteran and captain of the team said she would like to take the same approach as they did in their previous season. With hard word and determination they will be able to execute their plays more efficiently.

Coach Garofano had twenty-two girls attend a recent meeting for potential flag football players. He is looking for sixteen to eighteen

girls who will be available for practices as well as games. At the meeting, the coach discussed the requirements for trying out. He also discussed the fundamentals of football.

The flag football season will begin March 15 and end in the middle of June. To tryout girls must have a valid medical and parental consent.

Mr. Garofano said that all girls must tryout, practice, and play games with a mouth guard, cleats, and a pair of sticky gloves. These requirements are mainly for safety.



Football scores big at QV.



Coach Maloney rallies the team. He didn't have to worry about grades, just egos.

Tough Season for the Varsity Basketball Team

by Crystal Scottborgh

The boys' varsity basketball team ended the season with a 5-9 record. "It was a tough season with injuries, trying to develop players who have never played at the high school level, and improving players who have," said Coach Maloney, about his 16-player team. This year, only two former varsity team members returned, Amin Al-Sayed and Esteve Escorza, both of whom were team captains this year.

"We didn't play to the best of our potential," said Amin. "If we played to the best of our ability we would have had a chance at making playoffs," he said. The Tigers had to win half their 14 league games this season, to continue make it to the playoffs.

continued on page 19

Wrestling Team Finishes in First

by Jessica Alcaide

"Things have changed a lot from last year to this year," said Francisco "Frank" Cornier about the wrestling team. Last year Queens Voc was in seventh place in their division, with two wins and five losses. This year, they finished in first place. According to Mr. Zambrotta, the coach, "The season went well, we won seven, lost three and made it to playoffs, but we were knocked out of the playoffs due to illnesses and injuries." The coach said that during the season, Frank was 10 to 0, but he wasn't allowed to compete in the playoff match because he had pink eye.

The wrestling team is now in the Queens North division, and the A and B divisions have been combined. Monica Vega, who was on the wrestling team in her junior and senior year, said that this "was a great season because we made it to playoffs and it was a lot of fun."

Two Queens Voc wrestlers participated in the Mayor's Cup Tournament and City Championship. Tomas Duarte placed fifth in the Mayor's Cup Tournament and Frank Cornier placed seventh at 145 pounds, a weight class up from his

continued on page 19



Coach Zambrotta and the wrestling team take victory seriously.

Another Season, Another Playoff for Devaux's Girls

by Amin Al-Sayed

"I have a young team," Coach Devaux said, "this year I only have two players who understood the game and had valuable time on the court last season."

Coach Devaux said that this season he had to build around his key veterans, Sabrina Spiecker, Lucila Cortes, and Na Zheng. The team has five rookies this season, and with many players lacking experience scoring many points.

continued on page 19



Mr. Devaux and the team play to fight against cancer.

JV Basketball Team: A Record of Improvement

by Andy Collado

The JV basketball teams' season ended on Feb. 14 with a 62-48 loss to Maspeth High School. The team closed out their season 7-9, tied for fifth with Maspeth.

Coach Daniel had his best season of his three years coaching, as he and his players have improved at their respective positions. Captain Alexis Nieves said that "this year we played good defense, we looked to fast-break more, and we had good team chemistry."

Alexis led the team in scoring, averaging 26.8 points per game, ranked second among PSAL JV basketball players.

Rookie Catrell Jewell led the team in assists, with 9.38 per game, ranked number one among PSAL JV basketball players.

Veteran big man Jacob Sobilo who had 11.38 rebounds per game. Going into the final game, Jacob said, "we really wanted to finish 8-8, but we still had a strong finish. Coach Daniel really worked hard and pushed us to become better players."

Aside from the main contributors, the roster consisted of rookies Mahbub Ali, Sandy Cordero, Angel Justin Diaz, Justin Felder, Mir Raonaq, Joshua Rodriguez, Nicholas Saba, Travis Savino, Lincoln Speer, Charles Urena, and Farhan Zaman. Alexis and Jacob were the team's only veterans.

The team had big wins, but critical losses that prevented them from making the playoffs. Early losses to Flushing, Lane, and Bryant put them in a difficult position. Big wins against tough competitors came against Forest Hills, 49-38, and against Aviation, 62-49. Those two games were a turning point for the JV team because they were able to overcome the early struggles they faced this year.

Tigers Sports Continued Inside