



# Vocational Voice

Vol. LXXXVII No. 1

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

Fall, 2011

by Tina Pahlad

On Sept. 20, more than a year after being appointed interim acting principal of Queens Voc, Ms. Burg was officially appointed the school's principal. "I feel very honored," said Ms. Burg. "To finally be appointed is exciting and I feel proud to be able to earn everyone's trust."

Ms. Burg graduated with a bachelor's degree in English, and a minor in Secondary Education. In 1991, she began teaching special education at John Adams, where she worked for about 10 years. In 1992, she began studying for her master's degree in Special Education. Ms. Burg left John Adams and worked at Louis Armstrong Middle School for three years, while working on a professional certificate to be a School Based Administrator (SBA). She

## Ms. Burg Appointed Principal



Principal Burg with Supt. Mendez, Network Leader Selenikas, & SLT members.

was soon hired at Queens Voc as assistant principal of instructional support services, a position she held for 6 years.

"We have an excellent school, with teachers and students who are motivated," said Ms. Burg. "We need to improve what I call

'tuning' meaning little things." The school's graduation rate is one of her top five areas of improvements. The graduation

rate was 67% for 2011. In 2012, her goal is to achieve a graduation rate of at least 78% because she wants to prove that Queens Voc is a successful school. As the years go on, she is hoping for a graduation rate of at least 80%. "In order to do what we need to do," said Ms. Burg, "we need to strengthen the students' ability to think critically."

Ms. Burg said she tries to make the students follow school policies by standing at the front door as much as she can and walking around the halls reminding students about what they should be doing. Cameras are placed around the school, which gives her the advantage to see areas of the building which she calls "hot spots." She is able to choose which cameras she would like to see.

With budget cuts, the principal *continued on page 2*

## Do Not Pass Go The New Late Policy

by Yaw Teh

This year Queens Voc has a new policy that prevents students from arriving to class more than 15 minutes during the first two periods.

The new system was instituted by Principal Burg and Assistant Principal Alikakos at the beginning of the school year.

"LIC High School had a late policy during summer school," Ms. Burg said, "and they shut the students out of the school 30 minutes after the class began. However, in day school, we're not allowed to prevent students from entering the building." Students who are more than 15 minutes late to their first or second period are sent to the auditorium for the remainder of the period. The administrators say this is to prevent late students from disrupting classes in the

middle of the period.

"My intentions were to get the message across to students to get to school on time" said Mr. Alikakos, "and we'll hold them accountable if they're not." Ms. Burg agreed, pointing to an upside to this policy. "It helps bring up attendance rates," she said, "and so, it should bring up passing rates."

"Letting students walk into classes 15 or 20 minutes late really is interrupting the lesson," said Mr. Garofano. Ms. Burg also agreed and said, "Students walk in and say 'Hey! How are you doin'" and disrupt the lesson."

"When students swipe in at the entrance, there is a siren if a student is more than 15 minutes late" Mr. Garofano, a dean explained. "The deans on watch then send the late students to the auditorium."

There is also heavy security backing up the 15-minute late policy. "There was a

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## RIP Steffi

by Chorten Dolma

Steffi Garcia, a 2011 graduate whose record of accomplishments during her years at Queens Voc include establishing the organization R=AIN, Queens Voc's gay-straight alliance, passed away on September 17.

A farewell memorial for Steffi Garcia was held on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 6, in the auditorium. Nearly 75 of her former classmates and teachers, friends, and family members attended this event.

At the beginning of the memorial, Steffi's sister, Katherine Garcia, spoke about Steffi. Katherine said that she didn't know that so many people cared about Steffi or that she had influenced so many lives.

During the memorial, audience members were invited to go up on the stage to talk about Steffi. Ms. Kurnitz, SPARK *continued on page 2*

## Scaffolding Still Stands

by Yanil Ortiz

"The scaffolding outside the school has been there for a year," said Mr. Alikakos.

The structure was erected to protect against loose bricks that can fall off the building unexpectedly. "The cement isn't holding the bricks securely," said Ms. Burg.

On Monday, Nov. 28, the School Construction Authority sent Mr. Alikakos a request for a permit to close down 38th Street by the school. Repair work was scheduled to begin on Queens Voc's roof on Dec. 10 and Dec. 11. The SCA isn't sure if the problem with the brickface results from water leaking down from the roof.

The scaffolding has interfered with students who play handball. "The scaffolding affects me as a handball player

because it is difficult to swing my arm with the scaffolding in the way," said Andrew Medina, a senior who enjoys the time outside. "With the scaffolding, students have less space to play handball," he added.

Mr. Maloney, coach of the handball team, said the scaffolding has affected his team, causing them to travel for practice and games. "I'm disappointed because there is a possibility that this issue will again prevent us from using our home court," said Mr. Maloney. "Last year, the team members were highly motivated, so they didn't mind traveling." Mr. Maloney said his team will practice at the Bushwick Park on 63rd Street off Queens Boulevard.

"The scaffolding is there for protection," Ms. Burg said, "Is it ugly? Yes. Is the process moving too slowly? Yes!"



Temporary structure has been up more than a year.

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Ms. Burg Appointed Principal

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principal’s main goal is for the staff to stay in Queens Voc. “I think having a teacher in front of you is the most important piece,” according to Ms. Burg. Making the school greener is the least of her concerns, but a focus still, she said. “I feel we should use less paper by using

really get to know them and their strengths,” she said. Yet being a principal has its cons. “There is so much to do that pulls me in different directions,” said Ms. Burg. “The work I want to get done is sometimes trumped by the work I have to do. I go to sleep at night planning out what I will do the next morning, but



Principal reviews her lengthy “to do” list for the day.

e-mails instead of memos. It saves money on supplies and makes us greener. It would be like an online community, but the staff has to be comfortable with it,” she said. According to Ms. Burg, the new lateness policy seems to have a great effect on students. When the students cut, the doors have alarms which give the staff an idea of who it was. “We can’t eliminate cutting completely, but I would advise the teachers and guidance counselors to call homes of frequently absent students,” Ms. Burg said.

Ms. Burg’s job has its pros and cons. “Working with the staff gives me joy because I can

it sometimes falls apart.” “I feel happy,” said senior, Andrea Sacharsky, about Ms. Burg’s appointment as principal. “Although I miss Ms. Victor, I think Ms. Burg is doing a good job.” Junior Maria Abbasi concurred. “I think Ms. Burg has a lot of potential,” she said. Vanessa Cora, a junior, expects Ms. Burg “to make the school have a better reputation.” Luis Cruz also has high expectations. “I expect her to make the school better by having more supplies and programs.” “It’s a real pleasure to be the school’s principal,” Ms. Burg said, “I hope to keep the school on the course of excellence.”

Do Not Pass Go

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Late students waiting to go to the auditorium.

student who refused to stay in the auditorium because she had a test and she stormed away, so I called a dean to go and get her.” Ms. Burg said. “Students who refuse to follow the policy will only bring more trouble upon themselves.”

The new policy shows some success in bringing in students on time. “We have seen a dramatic reduction in second period lateness,” Alikakos said,

“not in first period as of now.” Vanessa Cora, a student in Queens Voc, says that lots of students are cooperating. “I like this policy! I think it lets us get a sense of responsibility to arrive to school on time. Colleges don’t accept lateness either so I think this is good practice.” she said. “Let’s hope this policy stays up and keeps pushing us to get to class on time!”



RIP Steffi Garcia

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counselor at Queens Voc, spoke about her relationship with Steffi and how she treated Steffi as her own daughter. Mr. Vega spoke about some of his many memories of Steffi, including the time when Steffi gave him a coat but he couldn’t wear it because it didn’t fit him. Near the end of the memorial, there was a candlelight ceremony. Everyone in the audience held each other’s hand and took turns to say a word that described Steffi.

One of Steffi’s biggest accomplishments was the establishment of R=AIN. In 2010, Steffi worked with Ms. Kurnitz to start the organization, originally named GSA, the gay-straight alliance. It was changed to R=AIN, which stands for Reach Equality and Integrate Now. It has now been changed to R=AIN in memory of Steffi Garcia. “It was really important to her,” said Ms. Kurnitz. “She really enjoyed helping people and not only did she like it, she was good at it.” Students would go to Ms. Kurnitz’s office specifically to see Steffi, because “people respected her opinion.”

“Steffi was a member of the girls’ basketball and bowling teams,” said Ms. Kurnitz. “Steffi was also the president of Virtual Enterprise during her junior year.”

Steffi’s passing shocked many people. Ms. Kurnitz said she felt “disbelief” at first and then “overwhelmingly sad” when she first learned about the tragedy. “It took a lot of time to get over the shock,” said Ms. Kurnitz. Ms. Wilson, Steffi’s U.S. and Global History teacher was also shocked. “I thought it couldn’t possibly be true because Steffi was so full of life,” she said, “I couldn’t believe it could happen to her.” Jessica Ramirez, an SES student and one of Steffi’s many friends, said that she never had experienced someone this close passing away. “I was shocked and then in denial for a while,” she said.

Steffi was well-known for her hard work and dedication, and for helping others. Ms. Wilson said Steffi was “a good, kind, generous, and sweet kid.” “Steffi,” said Ms. Kurnitz, “was the kind of person, no matter the situation, who always had a smile and a light in her eyes. She gave a piece of

her to everyone. She was the strongest person I’ve ever met, and she pushed other people to do the best they could and be the best they could be.”

Ms. Wilson said that if she could see Steffi for one last time, she would “probably say thank you.” Similarly, Jessica Ramirez said that if she had the chance, she would say, “Thank you for all the time you nagged me and the times you helped me and pushed me.” Jessica said that, “If not for her, I wouldn’t be the person I am today or where I am today. Although it’s tragic, to me she’s still alive.” A couple of days before Steffi passed away, Ms. Kurnitz was talking to her on the phone. Ms. Kurnitz said she told Steffi that she would get back to her after an appointment. Ms. Kurnitz never got back to her. “I should’ve gotten back to her,” she said

“I am glad that she left peacefully; she didn’t go in agony,” stated Jessica. Jessica said that Steffi deserved this type of peace for all those times she dealt with her struggles.

There’s one thing for sure, Steffi Garcia will be missed by many and her legacy will live on in Queens Voc.

Queens Voc Results from the June 2011 Regents

Exam	Year	# of students registered	# of students taking exam	# passing	% passing
English	2010	160	97	45	46.4%
	2011	522	433	350	80.8%
Global History and Geography	2010	359	300	219	73.0%
	2011	344	306	233	76.1%
U.S. History and Government	2010	658	546	312	57.1%
	2011	632	541	310	57.3%
Algebra	2010	528	423	257	60.8%
	2011	502	403	245	60.8%
Geometry	2010	434	304	87	28.6%
	2011	404	305	126	41.3%
Algebra II Trigonometry	2010	226	187	34	18.2%
	2011	292	186	26	14.0%
Living Environment	2010	507	383	269	70.2%
	2011	429	354	264	74.6%
Earth Science	2010	234	137	44	32.1%
	2011	342	206	72	33.0%
Chemistry	2010	150	127	45	33.4%
	2011	189	141	59	41.8%
Physics	2010	312	182	39	21.4%
	2011	276	179	23	12.8%



# Ms. Vittor Takes the Helm at Grover Cleveland

After more than a decade at Queens Voc, principal moves on to lead a bigger school

by Kelly-Ann Kato

Ms. Vittor, who served nearly 10 years as principal of Queens Voc, transferred to Grover Cleveland at the beginning of this school year. Ms. Vittor had been the transformation mentor principal at Queens Voc for the past year.

Ms. Vittor said she was put in charge of Grover Cleveland to transform the school after the former principal retired. The students of Grover Cleveland, she said, are similar to the students of Queens Voc. "Grover Cleveland students come from many of the same neighborhoods that Queens Voc students come from," she said, "and face many of the same issues." The difference between Grover Cleveland and Queens Voc is that Grover Cleveland is not a Career and Technical Education (CTE) school, but is an academic school with a graduation rate of 58%.

Ms. Vittor believes that

Grover Cleveland needs programs, similar to Queens Voc, that students would be interested in. She said she noticed that the school has a good art program and plans to make it stronger. Ms. Vittor wants the students to enjoy going to school and believes creating strong programs can transform Grover Cleveland into a better performing school. Grover Cleveland "is currently listed as a Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA) school," said Ms. Vittor.

While Ms. Vittor was principal at Queens Voc, she hired and mentored many of the staff members currently at the school. One of the staff mem-

bers that she mentored was Ms. Ocampo, the assistant principal of Pupil Personal Services. "Ms. Vittor was an amazing



Ms. Vittor in her new office at Grover Cleveland HS.

mentor," Ms. Ocampo said. "She walked me through the different procedures and protocols of my position."

Ms. Vittor also mentored Queens Voc's current principal, Ms. Burg. "Ms. Vittor was amazing at being both a prin-

icipal and a mentor," Ms. Burg said. "She hired me when I was a brand new teacher." Ms. Vittor gave Ms. Burg her first opportunities to become a teacher and eventually an assistant principal.

Ms. Ocampo believes that Ms. Vittor will perform well as principal of Grover Cleveland. "She is an inspirational leader. She has been in

the position for 10 years and helped to shape the new Queens Voc," Ms. Ocampo said. Ms. Burg agrees. "Ms. Vittor will do amazing things at Grover Cleveland," she said. "She has a clear vision and knows exactly where she wants the school

to be." Once she has a plan, she puts it into action, Ms. Burg said.

Ms. Vittor said that when she first became principal of Queens Voc in Jan. 2001, Queens Voc was "a good CTE school," but academically the school was doing poorly with a graduation rate of 50%.

She said that she had two missions to accomplish as principal of Queens Voc. Her first mission "was to get CTE programs approved," because they were not as rigorous as they could have been. The CTE programs needed to be approved by the NYC Department of Education and the state Education Department, Ms. Vittor said.

Her second mission was to get both post-secondary and industry partners for Queens Voc. Now, Queens Voc has a number of partners including Best Buy, LaGuardia Community College, Queens Borough Community College, and a company named C-Tech



Mr. Davidson & fellow travelers at Constitution Hall.

## Visiting Philadelphia: Another Reason to Join the SO

by Luis Gonzales

Forty Student Organization members went to The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Thursday, Nov. 10. The trip, for SO members only, included a visit to the Liberty Bell and Benjamin Franklin's grave. The students also saw Freedom Rising, a live show about the story of the Constitution and historical American events.

Becoming part of the SO does not only give students the benefit of going on fun and educational trips, but also discounts to activities such as the Hispanic heritage festival, the talent show, and SO sponsored school dances. Last year, SO members went to see a live show, The Blue Man Group.

Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, said he is planning a holiday dance, candy cane sales, a Valentine's Day dance, and teddy bear sales for Valentine's Day. Students who have ideas for future activities may speak to Mr. Vega, in room 143.

Students who want to join the SO must bring in a signed locker contract and \$3 to Mr. Vega in room 143. He is taking contracts on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch periods.

All club members and sports team members are asked to become SO members, Mr. Vega said, because they also participate in activities that are supported by the SO. New SO members are accepted throughout the school year.

## Hispanic Heritage: Embracing & Celebrating Diversity

by Ashley Deaza

Queens Vocational and Technical High School celebrated its second annual Hispanic Heritage Festival, on Friday, Oct. 14, as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"By having a Hispanic festival, Queens Voc offered different types of foods, cultures, and music. This led to people learning about other Hispanic countries," said Estefania Trigas, who attended this event.

About sixty people attended the festival, "more people than last year," said Stephanie Martinez, who also attended the festival. The festival began at 4:30pm and ended at 8pm. Once the music began, many of the people who attended the festival got up to dance. Students and parents enjoyed different types of foods and desserts. While the festival was going on, there was a PowerPoint presentation showing different facts about some Hispanic countries.

Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 through October 15, "is celebrated so that people can recognize the contributions of Hispanics and Latino Americans to the United States, and for Hispanics to celebrate their heritage and culture," said



Estefania.

Ms. Rejalaga ran the Queens Voc-based festival with the help of Ms. Toliver and Ms. Ferrara.

"The students controlled the success of the festival through their participation; they are the ones who brought the whole thing together," said Ms. Rejalaga. Tickets to the festival were \$5 for non-student organization (SO) members and \$3 for SO members. Participants who contributed a tray of food received free tickets. The celebration was not only for students, as family members and friends were also allowed to attend.

In addition to the festival, there were trips to El Museo Del Barrio and The Hispanic Society of America. On Friday, Oct. 7, Ms. Rejalaga, Ms. Richards, and about 31 students went to El Museo Del Barrio to see the annual celebration of El Dia De Los Muertos. The next day, Saturday, Oct. 8, nine students and Ms. Rejalaga went to The Hispanic Society of America. "Hopefully, with the trips that I took them on, they learned a little bit about their culture, and Hispanic art and music, not only by telling them but actually showing them," Ms. Rejalaga said.



Students represented many countries at festival.



# Have *YOU* done your 60?



**Randy earns his hours as part of MOUSE Squad.**

by Runqing Fang

“Queens Voc students are required by the state to take a 60-hour work-based learning internship in order to get their CTE endorsed diploma,” said Mrs. Newman, assistant principal.

Ms. Ramdeo, an electronics teacher, said that the internships expose students to the real work field and prepare them for hardships they may have after high school. “It gives students the opportunity to do ‘hands-on’ work so they can decide whether they will continue to study the same major when they go to college,” she said. Ms. Ramdeo said that students often apply what they learn in the field to the class and vice versa.

Shop teachers claimed students have more appreciation, motivation, and confidence in class after the internship. “It’s amazing to see students acting like a new person after the internship. The students act more confidently and dress more professionally. They are no longer nervous or reluctant working on actual people,” said Mrs. Quartuccio, a cosmetology teacher.

The CTE teachers agree that students tend to be more serious after their internships. Students networking with people from the real world improves their performance, the teachers suggest.

Abdoulaye Diallo, an electronics student, said he enjoyed as well as learned a lot from Mechatronics, a College

Now course at LaGuardia Community College that he attended over the summer. “Mechatronics provides four different engineering fields. I did a lot of ‘hands-on’ work such as building a small robot and programming it to do specific tasks,” Abdoulaye said. He said Mechatronics serves as an internship because what they did in class is related to what they have learned in electronics.

The work students do is usually based on their major. Computer technology students are usually in Mouse Squad, Mr. David said, managing, maintaining, and configuring computers in Queens Voc. Mr. Ali said some electronics students have installed communication radio systems in taxis, and antennas under money meters.

Mr. Bowen and Mr. Rivera said the internships for electrical installation and plumbing students in the fields vary based on the partner companies’ requirements. “Plumbing students can sometimes be dealing with installation and repair of boilers, gas lines, and sprinkler systems,” said Mr. Rivera, plumbing teacher.

Mr. Garcia said graphic arts students learn to design, and to

communicate with customers. “They learn to deal with each unique client’s requirements and expectations,” he said. Mrs. Quartuccio said cosmetology students go to salons and use the skills they have learned on actual people, instead of manikins. “Business students learn to use ‘business English’ and learn to understand business documents in their internships,” Mrs. Gross, a business teacher, said.

Students should join the internship program in their junior or senior year. “Sophomores are not ready to take a job because they are not familiar with the safety procedures and they wouldn’t know how to perform well on each job,” Mr. Bowen said. He also said that it would be extremely dangerous for an inexperienced student to be working with electricity and complicated tools. Mrs. Quartuccio prefers her students join the internship after their junior year because students wouldn’t have the knowledge or skills prior to their junior year.

Jonathan Castro, a business student, thinks that 60 hours is too much. He’s not alone. Andrew Utairujimalkool, a C- Tech student, and Joshua Zuniga, an electronics student, agree.

Teachers, however, disagree. “The internship gives students the opportunity to try to work hard and to compete with others.

The real world is not school. When the customers require the work be done by a certain time, it has to be done by that time. Otherwise, they would seek others who are more efficient and responsible,” Mr. Garcia said. Sandra Jarro, a graphic arts student, also believes that the internships prepare students for the real world. She said she learned to be more prepared at work and be able to present herself in front of clients.

There aren’t enough internships for each student, however, and students struggle to find their own. “The school should have a designated internship for each student, so students don’t have to look for internships by themselves,” Abdoulaye said. Mr. Bowen and Mr. Garcia explained that getting students internships in the city is very difficult, because most companies pick college students as interns. “They are usually better skilled and more experienced,” Mr. Garcia said.

Ms. Spallone secures the internships for business, cosmetology, and graphic arts students and Mr. Frank secures the internships for plumbing electrical, and electronics students. Students who are looking for internships by themselves have to talk to either Ms. Spallone or Mr. Frank so they can make sure the worksites are safe and that the internships are appropriate.

## New Leaders Arising

by Bryant Cartagena

Queens Voc has established a leadership group for freshmen to improve freshmen involvement in school activities.

Mohammed Hossain was a big contributor in the early meetings, said Ms. Ferrara. “I liked the idea as soon as I was introduced to it. It helps create future leaders, and gets us prepared. It also gives us more opportunity to excel and relate to upper-classmen. Leadership for freshmen will provide for a



**Melissa paints posts.**

smoother transition into high school,” said Mohammed.

The first meeting was held Sept. 21. Five students attended. By the second meeting, held on Oct. 3, 15 more students were added to the leadership roster. Ms. Ferrara, who is in charge of the freshmen leadership group, anticipates more than 30 students by the end of the year.

“They’re excited. They are planning all sorts of different activities, ranging from 9th grade-hosted dances to charity walks and movie nights,” said Ms. Ferrara. On Nov. 10, the freshmen leadership group held the first school dance this year. The dance was open to students of all grades. Over 70 students attended. “The freshmen did a great job hosting our first school dance. They were organized, and handled everything extremely well,” said Mr. Elfreich.

The freshmen are also working on a food drive. “We’ve put flyers around the school. It’s been a good turnout thus far. Even the older students are participating,” said Daniela

Ortiz, a member of freshmen leadership.

According to Daniela, the group works hard day in and day out. “I love how we are able to work together, it helps us unite,” she said.

The freshmen leadership group worked with the boys trying out for the baseball team. Seven members of the leadership group helped out at It’s My Park day: Jordan Balcacer, Onyx Hernandez, Dexter Moy, Hamza Naseer, Alexis Nieves, Stephanie Rojas, and Fatima “Melissa” Veras. The volunteers painted dozens of light poles at Flushing Meadows Park on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Ms. Ferrara is encouraging the freshmen to spread the word about the freshmen leadership program; she says spreading the word is a helpful tool. At freshmen orientation, Ms. Rejalaga spoke to the freshmen about the new group, and teachers around the school are lending a helping hand. Ms. Toliver and Mr. Elfreich work with the Leadership group as



**Ms. Ferrara, Mr. Elfreich, and the 9th grade leaders.**

well. Mr. Elfreich, an English teacher in the 9th grade School of Exploration and Discovery said he “wanted to get involved with the freshmen.” Also helping are Mr. Vega and Ms. Radovich, who have attended several meetings to encourage the freshmen to get involved.

Word of mouth isn’t the only way these freshmen are finding out about this new opportunity. Queens Voc alumni Christian Rodriguez

found out about the program when he visited the school. He convinced his younger brother, Jordan Balcacer, to join. Jordan has since convinced many of his friends to join. “I want to make this year live,” said Jordan. “That’s why I have to get everyone else in this.”

For some students, it’s not just about work and having fun. “Now I have a chance to strengthen my leadership abilities,” said Fatima Veras.

**Join Freshmen Leadership!  
See Ms. Ferrara  
to sign up.**



# News From Your SLCs

## SCHOOL OF EXPLORATION & DISCOVERY

by Alice Chee

Many students in SED, the School of Exploration and Discovery, are doing well so far this year. "Sixty six freshmen achieved an average of 85 or higher, 192 students have 100 percent attendance, and 76 students were only absent once," said Mrs. Dattner, the guidance counselor of SED.

Ms. Ferrara, the SED coordinator, recently began a freshmen leadership. The meetings for leadership take place on Mondays after ninth period. "I'm happy so far about what's going on. Students want to be involved in leadership. They talk about what events they want to plan, and we try to make it happen," said Ms. Ferrara.

Justin Green, a freshman, is involved in leadership. "We plan dances, field trips, and after school programs. There are not many people in leadership, but I like it. It gives me a sense



**SED students learn C-Tech from the master.**

of responsibility and being a leader," said Justin.

On Nov. 10, the freshmen leadership group held a school-wide dance. There was a sense of anticipation before the dance took place. "I'm pretty excited about the dance. I think the dance is a good idea," said Tania Jerez.

Many students attended the dance. Ms. Ferrara said that more than 100 tickets were sold at \$3 each. "It took a little while for everyone to warm up and feel comfortable on the dance floor, but by the last dance everyone was dancing. I think the students enjoyed the dance. I've already been asked when the next one will be," said

Ms. Ferrara.

She said that the freshmen leadership group participated in It's My Park day with the school's baseball team players.

Mrs. Dattner said that this year, freshmen will be participating in the event "Soles for souls." Gently used shoes will be donated to charity helping people who need them. She isn't quite sure when this event will take place, but she said it might be around January.

"Right now, we're looking to do some sort of charitable event before the holidays and possibly an SED movie night some time during the winter," said Ms. Ferrara.

## SCHOOL OF SKILLED BUILDING TRADES

by Juan Alzate

The School of Skilled Building Trades has a couple of activities coming up, including the nationwide Skills USA competition and an SSBT basketball tournament.

Mr. Cintron, EI teacher, is the advisor of Skills USA along with Mr. Rivera, a plumbing teacher. Skills USA is a national program in which students compete in their choice of 60 different competitions including EI, plumbing, and electronic technologies.

An in-school competition will be held on January 21 to determine which students will go to the state competitions.

Mr. Maloney is starting an SSBT basketball tournament, which will take place sometime before the winter recess. SSBT students are going to be highly encouraged to go play in this tournament, said Mr. Maloney. "Students will have their second marking period report card checked for failing classes." Students failing more than 2 classes will not be allowed to participate as of now.

SSBT students who have to sign up for internships should see Mr. Frank on Tuesdays, when he is in the building, in room 449.

In September, the SSBT attendance rate was 90 percent. Mr. Ali, the SSBT director, said, "This is the highest attendance rate SSBT has had in over three years, I am very pleased with these rates and I know the students are going to keep it like this the whole year. I want to see all the SSBT students graduate."

## SCHOOL OF COMPUTER & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES

by Kelly-Ann Kato

The School of Computer and Electronic Engineering Technologies (SCEET) has a large population of students who need to pass the Regents in order to graduate." The robotics club has been meeting on Wednesdays. The first meeting was held on Oct. 26 and the second meeting was held on Nov. 16. The robotics season officially starts Nov. 30.

The focus for SCEET students has "shifted from English Language Arts (ELA) to social studies," said Mr. Raushan, an electronics teacher. Mr. Holder is now the



**Ms. Ramdeo preparing future engineers.**

and SCEET coordinator. The SCEET guidance counselor. He used to be the guidance counselor for the School of Entrepreneurial Studies (SES). "I prefer working with the students and teachers of SCEET," Mr. Holder said, "because my personality fits better with the SCEET teachers."

## SCHOOL OF ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDIES

by Daniela Vidal

Ms. Basirico, previously SCEET's guidance counselor, recently transferred to SES, and Mr. Holder became the new guidance counselor for SCEET.

"We wanted Ms. Basirico to be the guidance counselor of SES three years ago, however, she was a brand new counselor and the caseload of 400 SES students would have been overwhelming for her," Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of pupil personnel services, said. Ms. Ocampo said she wanted Ms. Basirico to gain enough experience before assuming the role as guidance counselor of SES. After a meeting last June, Ms. Ocampo said she and Ms. Burg felt it was time the switch was made for this new school year.

"I feel good. I'm really busy getting to know students in the SES. I feel comfortable working with cosmetology, business, and graphic arts students because

I graduated from Queens Voc with a cosmetology license," Ms. Basirico said.

Mr. Holder is happy with the change. "I love it! I like SCEET because of the wonderful teachers," Mr. Holder said, "I feel great and relieved."

SES also welcomed a new teacher, Ms. Ogunka, who teaches web design and graphic design for both graphic arts and business students. She previously taught at John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx and Regis High School. Ms. Ogunka graduated from Pace University in 2010 and earned her master's in science education.

Ms. Ogunka said she feels welcomed by the teachers, feels comfortable asking questions, and trusts she will be given the right answer. "I like it! I'm really excited to be here. Students are respectful, the building is clean, and the teachers are friendly and

courteous," Ms. Ogunka said. She said she enjoys teaching web design and hopes she will inspire students to look into the graphic design field.

FBLA will be installing new officials in December. "The installation service recognizes new officers with a candle ceremony and each new officer is called upon to accept their duties and responsibilities,"

Ms. Mitchell, FBLA's advisor, said. FBLA will also work to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House by collecting can tabs in November. "When we collect tabs, this will help housed families of ill children at the Ronald McDonald House," said Ms. Mitchell.

Virtual Enterprise is currently preparing a business plan, which "will help us promote our product and make our business profitable," said Ms. Mitchell, who also teaches the VE class.



## EI Rooms Remodeled

by Priscilla Luna

Remodeling two of the four electrical installation rooms began last school year and was finished over the summer. New table tops, lockers to store students' tools, regular dry erase boards, and air conditioners were installed in rooms 406 and 425. Room 425 also has a new floor and a SMART Board. The cost of the remodeling was about \$20,000 per room.

The shop rooms were remodeled because they were in terrible shape. The rooms were older and desks were falling apart, Ms. Burg, the principal, said. Table tops were scratched, tagged, burned, and stapled, which is to be expected since it is a shop room and tools such as staple guns and soldering irons are used, said Mr. Bowen, an EI teacher. Some of the lockers wouldn't close properly

and some wouldn't open easily, after years of usage.

Mr. Abreu, who teaches EI to sophomores and juniors in room 425, said he's been waiting a long time for the remodeling of his room, which, he said, allows him to improve his teaching. "The tables are arranged in a U shape to encourage more discussions among students and the SMART Board is a magnificent tool because I am not limited when I am teaching," he said.

In room 406, Mr. Bowen said, the new arrangement of the tables allows him "to have better eye contact with his students." Room 406 may not have a SMART Board, but Mr. Bowen said he plans to have a projector installed on the ceiling, so the hassle of rolling out and setting up the smaller projector can be avoided. "But that's on the horizon," he said.



**Room 425 more conducive to learning after makeover.**

## FBLA to Mix Business and Charity

by Yanil Ortiz

The first Future Business Leaders of America fall district meeting of the year took place in Queens Voc on Thursday, Oct. 20.

All 11 schools within FBLA district 2 attended the meeting to plan activities for the year ahead.

Queens Voc's FBLA team and Ms. Mitchell, the coordinator of the FBLA team, were in charge of running the fall district meeting at Queens Voc.

Students at the fall district meeting took pre-tests in the categories that they will be tested on at the FBLA competition that takes place in Rochester, New York in April 2012.

Ms. Greave, a representative of the Ronald McDonald House, attended the fall district meeting and spoke to the

students about the work that Ronald McDonald House does. The students within district 2 are planning to fundraise for the Ronald McDonald House.

The Battle of the Chapters took place at the fall district meeting. The battle was a challenge among students at the meeting, led by officers of the districts within New York State, who questioned the students about FBLA.

A coin challenge was also held at the district meeting. The Queens Voc. FBLA team took second place. The coin challenge was a way of fundraising for the Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Mitchell was unable to recall the amount of money that was raised.

Mr. Gregg Bishop, an assistant commissioner from the Small Business Services, also attended the meeting. He explained the process of starting a small business. Small

Have you failed a class and need to retake it? If so, the Apex Learning program just might help.

The Apex Learning program is an online course used in PM school that helps students recover the credits they need. Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal for pupil personal services, said "the programs that are available are 9th, 10th and, 11th grade English, global and U.S. history, algebra, trigonometry, and geometry."

"The PM school classes are from September to January, for the fall, and from February to June for the spring," said Mr. MacDonald, coordinator for the Apex program. To register, students should talk to their

## EARNING CREDITS ONLINE

by Sylvester Nimako

guidance counselor.

This semester, on Mondays and Wednesdays Mr. Bascone teaches math, and Mr. Schimenz teaches history, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays Ms. Rejalaga teaches English.

"Eighty four students are in the Apex Learning program," said Mr. MacDonald.

The Apex program consists of reading and note taking,

quizzes, worksheets, and tests. The students are self-directed in Apex and can work at their own pace. Since the program is web-based, video and audio clips are incorporated into the online lessons, and students in the program write less than in regular classes.

"The Apex program is made for students and has little to do with the teacher," Mr. Bascone said, adding that "a good aspect of the program is that students can check their own progress." If students follow the design of the program they would easily pass the class."

David Serrano, a student in PM school, said, "the Apex program is very helpful. It helps me catch up on credits."

## The Off and On Again Regents Exams

by Muhammad Allie

\$250,000 each. Together, they raised \$1.5 million, which will be used to finance the January 2012 Regents. The June and August Regents will continue to be financed by the State," she added, referring to an article from the Huffington Post.

"This gives students a chance to take Regents early or retake failed ones," said Ms. Dattner. This helps students earn enough Regents credits to graduate with a regular Regents diploma, which requires passing five Regents exams.

"High school students who entered the NYC public school system in 2008 must abide by the new state graduation requirements. One of the requirements that changed was for the attainment of the Advanced Regents Diploma. This is primarily due to the

change of Math Sequence directed by the New York State Education dept. (NYSED). The requirements to graduate with an Advanced Regents Diploma are passing two more math Regents and one more science Regents than the regular Regents Diploma. The new math Regents requirements for students to attain the Advanced Regents Diploma are passing the following three Math Regents with a 65 or above: Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II/Trig," said Ms. Ocampo, the assistant principal

"In order to prepare for Regents exams, students should start practicing exams at least six weeks before the actual exam. One way to do so is by visiting the website [www.regentsprep.org](http://www.regentsprep.org). It has excellent review questions, sample questions, and past Regents since 2008," Ms. Dattner said.

Business Services is a New York City department that provides assistance to businesses.

The FBLA competition in Rochester is based on how well students score on tests.

Ms. Mitchell said the students have started working on pre-test packets to help guide them in preparation for this year's FBLA competition. They go on [fblatestfrenzy.com](http://fblatestfrenzy.com) to take mini pre-tests.

Kevin Acosta, Tina Callanan, Jonathan Castro, Eddie Fernandez, Brenda Jerez, and Andrea Sacharsky are members of the FBLA team. Jonathan finds FBLA to be fun and interesting. "I've gained new experiences and learned how to dress for success."

The FBLA team, Ms. Mitchell said, consists of twenty students from tenth through twelfth grades. "I recommend FBLA because I have gained great leadership skills as a

member," Andrea said.

"I hope to win first place this year, I've been working really hard to achieve this by doing test preparation," Andrea said. Jonathan hopes to do well too. "I hope to win at least second place this year. I've been taking pre-tests online to help me prepare for the competition," said Jonathan.

This year the FBLA team at Queens Voc will be doing community service, said Ms. Mitchell, by working with the Go Green Committee and the Community Service Program of Works by collecting recyclables.

Ms. Mitchell and the FBLA team are still working on the details.



**Future business leaders "change" the world.**



# Catching Up with the Yearbook Staff



Seniors work to produce the coveted 2012 yearbook.

by Abdoulaye Diallo

The yearbook committee is trying to capture important moments throughout the year but they're faced with a dilemma: the committee lacks proportional representation among the SLCs.

The students participating in the yearbook committee are predominantly from SES. "We would like a more diverse committee to appeal to the entire senior class," said Ms. Green, one of the yearbook advisors. "We try our best to get all the SLCs involved, but that means the SLCs have to be present."

The committee is also facing a new challenge this year. "In the past, the yearbook committee worked in the computer lab of the library,"

Ms. DeCarlo said. "This year, PM school classes are being held in the same lab and we're competing for space." This is a major impediment, she said, because the committee requires computers for uploading pictures, editing text, and designing pages, and they need a large enough space that accommodates all the students on the yearbook committee. Consequently, the advisors are trying to find a meeting place where students could work on the yearbook on a regular basis.

Worse still, the advisors say, some seniors participate in many activities, reducing the amount of time they're available. "It's difficult to assign tasks because of the activities the students are part of," Ms. Green said. Andrea

Sarcharsky, a yearbook staffer is one such student. "I don't like that the meetings are on Monday because I have college class," she said. Andrea takes Introduction to Business, in the College Now program.

"The limited time makes it more stressful," said Ms. DeCarlo. The advisors view the once a week meeting as insufficient amount of time to get the work done. The students disagree. SES student, Yahirt "Steven" Artunduaga countered, saying, "It's a sufficient amount of time because a lot of work is done in that one day."

The seniors are planning to have impact. Andrea said she "joined the yearbook committee so I can help collect memories for our senior class." Anita Lopez, another SES student, said "It's fun to be part of what will be remembered for the rest of our lives."

"This group seems more precise with their creations," said Ms. Green. "Every year the students improve the previous year's concepts and add their own style."

While the yearbook committee members are excited, Ms. DeCarlo warned, "as the year goes along and the students realize the amount of work that's required, they drop out."

The students on the committee collect photos,

upload them on a PC/laptop, and select the photos to be used, as well create and design yearbook pages. "It's fun, but can get stressful if it's not organized," said Ms. Green. Ms. DeCarlo concurred, "it takes a lot of time, planning, and organization," she said. Decisions are arrived at by consensus. "The work is less burdensome because everyone works cooperatively," said Anita Lopez.

Ms. Green said the yearbook committee's goal is to create and produce a quality yearbook for the senior class.

The committee covers senior events throughout the year, including fundraisers, Spirit Week, walks, the senior trip, the senior luncheon, sporting events, the talent show, and Senior Oscar Night. Some of the members of the committee went to the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk with other students and photographed the event. "We all came together for a great cause," Andrea said. The yearbook committee coordinates the Senior Glow Out event. "The senior class picture is a memory that we create through the Glow Out," said Ms. Green.

The advisors are "excited and anticipating a successful year," said Ms. DeCarlo. Successful, Ms. Green said, would be "a memorable yearbook for the Class of 2012."

## Calendar of Events

Compiled by Stefanie Sierra

### December

**Dec. 12:** Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. American Studies @ Queens Voc.

**Dec. 13:** Girls' Basketball vs. Newcomers @ Queens Voc.

**Dec. 14:** Boys' Varsity vs. Frank Sinatra @ Queens Voc.

**Dec. 15:** Parent Association Meeting - Save Energy. Save Dollars 6:30pm - 8pm

Girls' Basketball vs. Wagner @ Queens Voc.

SLT Meeting, 4pm to 6:30pm

**Dec. 20:** Girls' Basketball @ Info Tech

**Dec. 21:** Boys' Varsity Basketball @ Info Tech

**Dec. 26:** through **Jan. 2:** Winter Recess

### January

**Jan. 3:** Students return to school

**Jan. 4:** Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Newcomers @ Queens Voc.

**Jan. 9:** Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Wagner @ Queens Voc.

**Jan. 11:** Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. School For Global Education @ Queens Voc.

**Jan. 12:** SLT Meeting, 4pm to 6:30pm

**Jan. 16:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (schools closed)

**Jan. 18:** Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Queens High School Complex (TBD)

**Jan. 24 through 27:** Regents week

## Showing 'Character' for a Week

by Evelin Ramirez

Queens Voc held its fall spirit week, during the week of Nov. 14-18. The themes were student/teacher day, twin day, black and white day, jersey day, and crazy hat day.

On the first day of spirit week, the theme was student/teacher day. Some students dressed like teachers and some

teachers dressed like students. In a number of classes students also taught the class.

Tuesday was twin day, and many of the students participating paired up with a friend to dress alike for a day.

Black and white day was on Wednesday. Many students and staff participated.

Thursday was jersey day. Many students and staff

participated by wearing jerseys supporting their favorite team.

Friday was crazy hat day. A lot of students and staff members wore hats, but many of the hats were "fitteds," not particularly crazy.

Previously to announcing the themes for Spirit Week the top ten themes were twin day, black and white day, jersey day, crazy hat day, student/teacher day, celebrity day, funky fashion day, wig day, when I grow up day, and uniform day, but only five of these themes were chosen.

Before spirit week began, students shared some of their ideas for future spirit week themes:

"Gender blender day because it would be funny to see everyone dressed as the opposite gender," said Armin Haque.

"Jersey day, we have it every year," said senior Randy Prashad. Students can wear



Jersey day was a success.

their team's favorite jersey no matter what the sport is.

"Backwards day, it would be interesting to see everyone wearing all their clothes backwards," said Kasiya Millinger, freshman.

"Face Paint Day," said Jazleen Intriago, sophomore. By participating in face paint day, students would be able to express themselves artistically.

"Hippie Day, retro is back is style now," said sophomore Elma Rahman. For this theme, students could dress

with headbands across their foreheads and clothing with flower designs or patterns on them.

"Bad hair day, so students would be able to show off their bed heads," said Jonathan Amon, a junior. Students would enjoy not having to deal with doing their hair in the morning and it would be quite interesting to see everyone with messy hair for a day.

Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities said, "Spirit week is held to help students release the stress of their everyday lives and aid students in expressing their individuality and artistic qualities."

Spirit week is held twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Throughout spirit week, students are able to participate in a variety of themes chosen by the students themselves. Themes for spirit week are chosen from a pre-selected list of themes are picked from previous suggestions made by students themselves. The ideas must be approved by the principal.



Who said hats weren't allowed in school?



# The Engrade Revolution

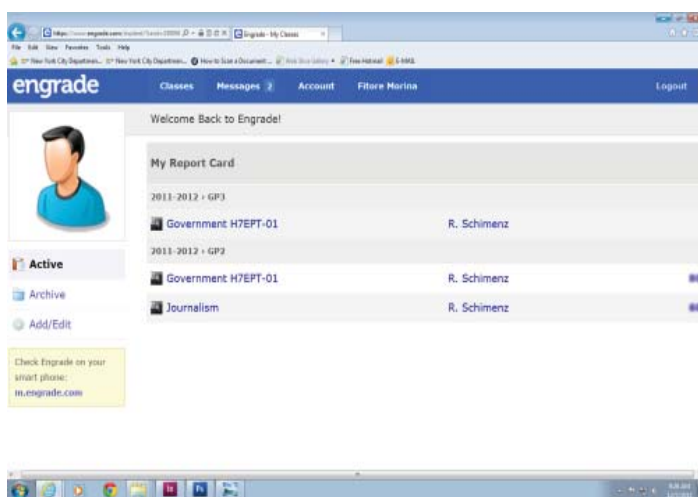
by Daniel Corona

“No more excuses, no more procrastination,” said Quinten Diego, an avid Engrade user.

Engrade is an online grade book that allows students and parents to keep track of grades, students to print out worksheets, view homework assignments, and even to do homework and participate in group discussions online.

On Engrade, students can view their grades on all their assignments, find out what work they missed while they were absent, message their teachers and peers, view a calendar of upcoming assignments, verify their class attendance, take online quizzes, and more.

With Engrade, “the students will be more responsible with their assignments and home-



**No surprises as students can check grades online.**

work,” said Mr. MacDonald, who encourages teachers to use the program as a time saving device and a way to hold students more accountable for their own work.

Many teachers who use En-

grade enjoy it not only for its grade book capabilities but for its simplicity and communication features. Teachers can even give guidance counselors and other teachers read-only access to their Engrade ac-

counts if they choose to, said Mr. MacDonald.

Ms. Green, an English teacher, said she uses Engrade, but doesn’t have it accessible for students because she doesn’t update it as much as the students might expect. She believes students would take time away from her lesson and ask about their grades. On the other hand she does use it at the end of the semester to double check her grade book.

Mr. Gallagher, the social studies master teacher, likes that Engrade allows more communication between him, the students, and parents. He said that sometimes students can get wrong impressions of their grades because of the one or two assignments that were posted up early, and that leads to a bad representation which

can cause a student to slack or not care as much as they should. As he uses Engrade more, he finds different ways to attach assignments, class discussions, and make more students comfortable to use technology in an educational way.

Ms. Watkins, a math teacher, does not give students accounts because of the way it calculates grades, which can be misleading. She is also very leery, she said, because there’s a possibility of a computer whiz who could hack into her grade book and change grades.

“It is pretty easy to figure out,” said Mr. MacDonald, who recently taught Mr. Schimenz how to use the online program. Mr. Lederer, the English master teacher, runs frequent professional development sessions for teachers.

## What You Need to Know About Graduating from Queens Voc

by Nohely Vazquez

Graduation day may seem far away for most students, but without completing the necessary requirements, students will not be able to receive their high school diploma along with their classmates.

According to the Queens Voc “Graduation Requirements” handout, students need eight credits in English, eight credits in social studies, eight credits in math, six credits in science, two credits in art/music, two credits in a foreign language, one credit in health, four credits in physical education (.58 credits per semester) and 10 credits or more in their CTE, depending on the students SLC; totaling in 54 credits to receive the CTE Endorsed Diploma. For students to receive their Regents Diploma, they need to score at least a 65 in five Regents exams which are English, Global History & Geography, U.S History & Government, one in science (Living Environment, Chemistry, Earth Science, or Physics), and one in math (Geometry, Algebra, or Algebra II / Trigonometry). To receive an Advanced Regents

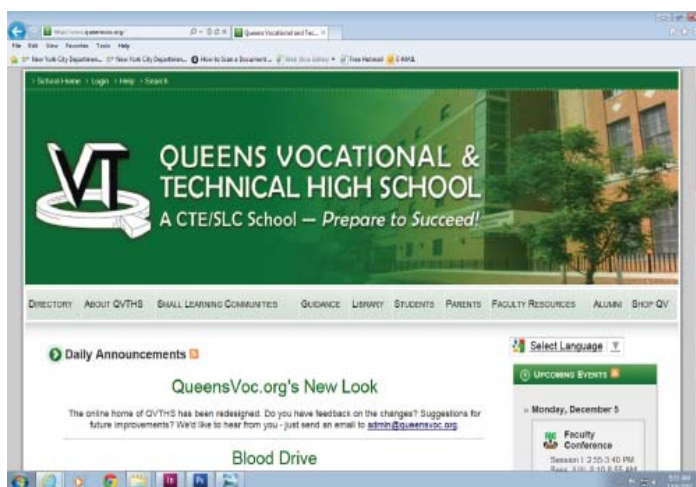
Diploma, students must score a 65 on seven Regents exams, including two science and three math Regents. Queens Voc students are also required to complete 60 hours of work-based learning.

In the “Sequence of Courses” handout, SSBT students, majoring in plumbing and electrical installation must take a proficiency test, complete a fourth year of math, and create a career portfolio.

According to the “Sequence of Courses” handout, students in SES, which consists of business, cosmetology, and graphic arts, must take the NOCTI (National Occupational Certified Testing Institute) exam, complete a fourth year in either math or science, take one semester of College Now courses, and create a career portfolio.

In the “Sequence of Courses” handout for SCEET, students in computer technology must take the Microsoft A+ Certification, and students in electronics engineering technology must take an electronics certification test, both must complete a fourth year of math and science, and take one semester of College Now courses.

**See your guidance counselor to make sure you’re on track to graduate.**



**School website back on track.**

## School Website Takes on a Life of its Own (With some help from Mr. MacDonald)

by Muneeza Ahmed

Over 1,000 visits are made to the school website each week on average, according to Mr. MacDonald, who has taken on the role of webmaster.

The website, QueensVoc.org, was re-established last year by Ms. Ruiz, who has since moved to another school.

The school website has a wealth of information about Queens Voc, such as the school calendar that lists upcoming events; a list of teachers by SLC, their e-mail addresses, and the classes they teach; the school’s telephone directory and bell schedule; admissions information for new students; college and career counseling information; helpful links for students, teachers, and faculty members; clubs, activities, and teams; weather information, a link to the school newspaper

website; and links to Engrade and Daedalus.

Teachers can even post homework assignments and announcements. The teachers who currently use this feature are Ms. D’Onofrio, Mr. Davidson, Ms. Newman, Ms. Ogunka, and Mr. Papadopol.

“I think it’s very important to have a full school website,” said Mr. MacDonald, “because many people use the internet as a main source of information.” He also said, “I think it’s really positive for the school in terms of communication and our image in the community.”

It was through the school leadership team that the school’s lack of a website became an issue, with student and faculty representatives calling for a website that shows off Queens Voc. Ms. Burg agreed with the SLT and resurrected the school website.

## Musical Chairs QV Style

by Evelin Ramirez

Hate having to run to your next class just to get a seat? You’re not alone. This happens to many students during the first few weeks of school.

The program office run by Mr. Davidson, Mr. MacDonald, and Ms. Gonzalo, is at its busiest when school first opens because some classes are overcrowded and they are busy changing students’ programs.

According to the contract signed between the United Federation of Teachers and the Department of Education, classes should have no more than the maximum number of students by the tenth day of school. Those maximum numbers are 34 in an academic class, 28 in a shop class, and 50 students in physical education classes. Self-contained classes can have up to 15 students.

Mr. Davidson said that one reason for these issues is that the program office doesn’t know how many students will show up at the beginning of school. Also, in the beginning of the school year, Mr. Davidson said, he places “students in classes they need even if they become overcrowded, that way students don’t miss any classes while their schedules are getting fixed.” Another reason the programs are messed up at the beginning of the year is that the school has multi-period shop classes and block scheduling. Further, programs aren’t worked on until the end of August. That leaves little time to straighten out problems.



# Rise and Shine: Morning Cosmo Clinic



Cindy shows off her skills on her mother.

by Biaani Garcia

The cosmetology program in Queens Voc has had a morning and an afternoon class for many years. Now both classes take place in the morning, with the two classes sharing resources and alternating rooms for theory and hands-on.

On the first day of school in September, there were 52 students in Ms. Quartuccio's morning class and 7 girls in Mrs. Gonzales' afternoon class. When a situation like this occurred in previous years, the students would be evenly split into both cosmo classes. "Mr. Davidson thought it would be better to have shop classes in the morning and academic classes in the afternoon," said Ms. Quartuccio. Mr. Davidson confirmed saying, "Senior academic classes are in the afternoon, only 12 girls would have been able to be in the afternoon cosmetology class." With the plan of moving both cosmo classes to the morning, Ms. Quartuccio would have her class in the Elite Salon and Mrs. Gonzales would have her class in room 321. "Initially when

told we had to go to another room, I didn't agree. After working on a solution with Ms. Quartuccio, I thought it would be fine," said Mrs. Gonzales. Now both classes share the senior room; while one class has theory the other class has hands-on.

According to Ms. Quartuccio, "Having morning shop classes is a good idea because seniors get in the habit of waking up early to get to school, early like they will have to for college or work." Daisy Zarate doesn't mind the change. It "doesn't make much of a difference," she said. But not all students feel this way. "I feel that switching from one room to another wastes time," Emily Diaz said.

"This will probably be the way it will stay for future years so now we'll be uniform," said Mrs. Gonzales. Mr. Davidson said, "It is possible that this is the way it will stay. Ms. Quartuccio and Mrs. Gonzales could work better together if their classes are at the same time." Students seem to welcome this idea. "I think in the following years

cosmetology should only be in the morning," said Jennifer Rojas. "Every other class only has shop in the morning."

The Elite Salon is open Monday through Friday periods

1, 2, 3, and 4. Teachers and students are welcome at the Elite salon. Students must have a free period to go to the salon. Services provided include hair coloring, hair cutting, hair

styling, manicuring, facials, and waxing. Clients from outside the school are welcome as long as they are 18 years of age or older and sign in at the main entrance.

## THE ELITE SALON

Queens Vocational and Technical High School  
37-02 47<sup>TH</sup> Avenue Long Island City, NY 11101  
Phone: (718) 937-3010 Fax: (718) 392-8397

### PRICE LIST

Walk-in hours are from:  
8:00 to 10:30 a.m.  
Acceptable I.D. required  
to enter building.

#### SHAPES AND STYLES

Shampoo and Blow Dry	4.00
Long Hair	2.00 extra
Flat Iron	3.00 extra
Thermal Curls	3.00 extra
Shampoo and Cut	5.00
Shape Up	3.00

#### TWISTS AND TWIRLS

Braid - 1/2 hair	5.00
Braid - whole head	10.00
Weaves	10.00 up

#### CURLS AND STRAIGHTS

(includes blow dry or roller set)

Curly Perm	30.00
Body Wave	30.00
Relaxer	15.00

#### HAIRCOLORING

Single process	10.00
Highlights	
Foil - 1/2 head	20.00
Foil - whole head	40.00
Cap - 1/2 head	15.00
Cap - whole head	20.00

#### FANCY FINGERS

Basic Manicure	2.00
French Manicure	3.00
Acrylics	12.00
Paraffin (Friday only)	2.00

#### FRESH FACES

Basic Facial	3.00
(includes cleaning, streaming and exfoliation)	
Make-up Application	3.00

#### HAIR BE GONE

Eyebrow Waxing	3.00
Eyebrow Tweezing	2.00

#### FANCY DO'S

Specialty hairstyles for:

Weddings	10.00 up
Parties	10.00 up
Proms	10.00 up

Prices subject to change.

## College Application Process: A Primer For Seniors

by Brenda Jerez

College applications strike fear into the hearts of many, but have no fear, Ms. Abrams is here!

Ms. Abrams is the college advisor for Queens Vocational & Technical High School, and is located in room 143, two doors down from Ms Vega's office. She's usually in on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ms. Abrams took time out recently to answer some questions about the college application process.

**Q:** When are the deadlines for SUNY, CUNY, and private schools?

**A:** Each college has its own deadline. Students can find the application deadlines at the college's website or by contacting

the admissions office.

**Q:** How and where do we get the college applications?

**A:** Most college applications can be found online. A hard copy isn't really needed anymore. That's why its important for seniors to have internet access.

**Q:** How do we fill out the college applications?

**A:** For CUNY schools, students should fill out the paper application as reference, then fill out the online application, and have the requirements at hand. For SUNY students apply online and follow the application requirements. For private colleges, students can either fill out the common application which is accepted by more than 400 colleges throughout the United states, or fill out the col-

leges own application.

**Q:** Aside from the application, what else needs to be included?

**A:** Along with the completed application, the student would need the application fee. Recommendation letters and student essays might not be needed because some schools require them and others don't, but it's best to keep them at hand.

**Q:** How is one eligible for fee waivers? And how many can one get?

**A:** To be eligible for fee waivers, students must bring in the first page of their parents' tax return, or proof of unemployment, to Ms Abrams. To be eligible, a family of four cannot make more than \$41,348 a year. The maximum number of

fee waivers is four for SUNY, and one for CUNY, which covers about six schools. To get fee waivers for private schools, students can check on College Board, but not all private schools accept the fee waivers.

**Q:** When is the right time to apply?

**A:** As soon as possible! Once transcripts are ready, around the beginning of November, students should start applying. Students shouldn't wait because the programs fill up fast, that's why students should apply as soon as possible.

Ms. Abrams has some additional advice: "Stay on top of deadlines, because each school has its own deadline, and try to prepare for the SAT."



**Ms. Abrams**  
**College Advisor**  
is available in  
room 143  
Tuesdays  
&  
Thursdays  
From 7:40am  
until 2:50pm  
except pd. 6



# Getting to College the College Board Way

by Eddie Fernandez

One single exam can determine your admission to college. That is what students face when taking the PSATs and SATs.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test, known better by its abbreviation SAT, is administered by the College Board, and is required for admission by many colleges in the United States. The SAT tests students’ reading, mathematical, and writing skills in a series of passages, problems, and questions. The test is used by colleges to test how well students analyze and solve problems, skills that the College Board believes should have been learned throughout their years in school.

In addition to the SAT, a pre-assessment is administered to high school sophomores and juniors to familiarize students with the style and difficulty of the SAT. Students who score well on the PSAT qualify for the National Merit Scholarship, sponsored by the National Mer-

it Scholarship Organization. This non-for-profit organization helps academically adept students become recognized by entering them into competitions that would help earn them college scholarships.

On Oct. 12, sophomores and juniors across the country took the PSAT. The test is administered by the College Board twice each October.

There are four remaining test dates for this school year: Jan. 28, March 10, May 5, and June 2. In Queens, the SAT is offered at Flushing, John Bowne, Jamaica, and Long Island City high schools.

The PSAT can’t be applied for online, and must be applied for through a high school that offers the exam. Students must talk to their school counselors to find out where they can take the test. Registration and preparation information can be found at collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/reg.html.

To sign up for the SAT, students must go to sat.colleg-

eboard.org/register. The SAT is not a free exam, however, students in their junior or senior year may acquire a fee waiver from their college advisor or guidance counselor if they are enrolled in a reduced or free lunch program, have a family income that falls within USDA eligibility guidelines, receive public assistance, live in federal public housing, or live in foster care.

SAT preparation is a major field of business. Several companies, such as Studypoint and Testmasters, specialize in preparing students for the SAT, through practice exams, tutoring, and textbooks. The College Board offers assistance online at sat.collegeboard.org/practice/, where free practice exams and questions are offered, and paid online courses such as “The Official SAT Online Course.”

Ms. Abrams, Queens Voc’s college advisor, helps students with the SAT sign up process and counsels students applying for college, yet she said, she believes “that colleges rely too much on the SATs when considering students’ admission.”



**Mr. Davidson is presented with a certificate as a Gold Star Teacher, for having more than 90% of his students pass the Financial Literacy Certification test sponsored by W!SE. Queens Voc once again became a Blue Star School with more than 75% of students who took the certification test passing. Presenting Mr. Davidson with the certificate are Principal Burg and Assistant Principal Newman.**

# Seniors Put the Fun in Fundraising

by Keivan Jimenez

The senior food festival took place on Wednesday, Nov. 30, outside the auditorium during periods four through eight. Over \$2,100 was raised for senior class activities.

Ninety-six seniors helped the fundraising effort by bringing in food and drinks, and helping serve the food to the students and staff members who purchased lunch. Each plate of food was \$5 and students could choose two appetizers and two entrees. Beverages and desserts were an additional \$1 each.

“The food festival was a big success,” said Mr. Vega. “I’m very proud of the students who participated.”

The senior council will meet to decide what they are going to use the money for.

The senior class elections took place on Oct. 7. More than 200 seniors voted. On Oct. 12,

Mr. Vega announced the winners: Maximilian Manticof as president, Jessica Polanco as vice president, Fitore Morina as secretary, and Andrea Sacharsky as treasurer.

“It feels good,” said Max with a big smile on his face. “I plan on running many senior fundraisers to help more seniors go on the senior trip. I would love to see the senior class of 2012 show their QV spirit by attending all senior activities. And even though the work I do on leadership may seem like I do it all by myself, it is a group effort.” Jessica said she feels “excited and ready to work for what the senior class is looking forward to this year,” Fitore said she’s excited she “gets to represent my senior class, and I’m glad that people voted for me.” Andrea, too, is excited. “I’m happy that people voted for me and I promise to do my best to make this a great senior year,” she said.



**Seniors working hard for seniors due for food festival.**

# Guidance Counselor Schedule

compiled by Tina Marie Callanan

NAME	IN	OUT	LUNCH
Ms. Dattner SED	8:40am	3:50pm	Period 7 1:11pm – 1:53pm
Ms. Basirico SES	8:40am	3:50pm	Period 7 1:11pm – 1:53pm
Mr. Holder SCEET/Advanced	8am	3:10pm	Period 6 12:26pm – 1:08pm
Ms. Judge SSBT	7:40am	2:50pm	Period 5 11:41am – 12:23pm
*Ms. Abrams College Advisor (Tues. & Thurs. only)	7:40am	2:50pm	Period 6 12:26pm – 1:08pm
Ms. Kurnitz SAPIS/SPARK	8:30am	4pm	Period 6 12:26pm – 1:08pm



Exploring Exploratory



Freshmen ready to learn about careers in plumbing.

by Muneeza Ahmed

This year, freshmen in exploratory take three CTE classes in the fall and three CTE classes in the spring. The classes rotate every marking period. The exploratory classes the students take are plumbing, electrical installation, electronic technology, business, graphic arts, and cosmetology. “Exploratory is really fun because students get a little taste of every major,” freshman Merry Shil said. “I am currently in business learning the basics of PowerPoint and doing a project on different artists.” Merry is still unsure about the

major she wants to take and still wants to try different majors. Paola Yauri finds exploratory interesting. “I’m taking plumbing and learning how to cut pipes,” she said. Paola was in cosmetology before, but she didn’t like it very much. Mr. Cintron and Mr. Abreu teach exploratory electrical installation. Mr. Cintron said he likes teaching exploratory electrical installation because he sees that some freshman have the potential to be electricians in the future. Mr. McCarthy teaches exploratory plumbing. “I’m teaching the students hand tool operations, how to work

with pipe cutters, and the math that goes along with basic plumbing,” he said. “Teaching plumbing is fun,” he said, “since the students don’t know the basics and it allows him to teach the students new skills. Probably only six or seven kids will proceed with the major,” he said. Mr. Daniel teaches business. “For now,” Mr. Daniel said, “I’m teaching my students the basics of business such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, business terminology, and financial literacy.” Mr. Daniel said he enjoys teaching because not only does he teach the students, he also learns from them. He plans to allow

students to work on a special project involving working with job-related skills, he said. Ms Ogunka teaches Graphic

Arts in the exploratory program. She said that she finds the ninth graders enthusiastic students who are enjoying the class.



Exploratory Graphic Arts students learn on new iMacs.

Websites of Interest

by Sanjeev Thapa

Here is a list of websites that can help with school work, college news, sports, and school information. Thanks to Ms. Abrams, Ms. Burg, Mr. Burke, and Mr. Schimenz, for submitting their suggestions.

- Test Prep**  
Collegeboard.com . . . . . SAT prep  
Regentsprep.org . . . . . Regents prep

- Queens Voc**  
QueensVoc.org . . . . . Queens Voc website  
VocVoice.org . . . . . Voc Voice online  
QvTigers.org . . . . . Varsity baseball team

- Academics**  
Edutopia.org . . . . . Education ideas for teachers  
Khanacademy.org . . . . . Online videos on math & sciences  
Wolframalpha.com . . . . . Answers any questions  
Stosselintheclassroom.org . . . . Free videos for gov’t and eco class  
Izzit.org . . . . . Free videos for social studies classes

- Research**  
Ted.com. . . . . Ideas on the web  
Students.ed.gov . . . . . Student gateway to federal aid  
www.eric.ed.gov. . . . . Education Resources Info Center

- College Resources**  
Cappex.com . . . . . College and scholarship search  
Fastweb.com . . . . . Financial aid opportunities  
Collegeboard.org . . . . . College board online  
Act.org. . . . . College entrance exam

- Reference**  
Easywhois.com . . . . . Shows website owners  
Dictionary.com . . . . . Dictionary online

- Sports**  
PSALorg . . . . . High school sports  
NCAA.org . . . . . College sports

How HS students should prepare for college

by Muhammad Allie

The time for college is just around the corner. And while that corner is closer for seniors than for freshmen, with each passing day college gets closer for all students. “Often, students wait too long to get ready. But it’s never too soon, said Ms. Abrams, the school’s college advisor. “It is never too early to prepare,” she added, “students should start in the ninth grade,” she said. When preparing for college, keep in mind that colleges have standards. “Colleges focus on academic records, grade point averages (GPA), Regents, and SAT scores, extracurricular activities that students took part in, student essays, and letters of recommendation,” said Ms. Abrams. “To prepare for college, students should read a lot to improve their writing skills and vocabulary,” said Ms. Abrams.

“They should strive to get high grades in their classes, and participate in extracurricular activities and school teams. They should also create a good relationship with their teachers; this will help students to get letters of recommendation when needed,” she added. “When applying to a college, always apply early because seats fill up fast,” said Ms. Abrams. “Studies show that your earning potential increases with the number of years of school, for example if you have a masters degree, you would likely earn more than someone who has an associate’s degree,” said Ms. Abrams. “All of the information that students need to prepare for college is available on the college and career link on Queens Voc’s website, Queensvoc.org. There are application dates, SAT application deadlines dates, and tips to help students write their student essays,” said Ms. Abrams.

See the school newspaper in color at [vocvoice.org](http://vocvoice.org)



# V.E. PREPARES STUDENTS FOR THE BUSINESS WORLD

by Jarin Rahman

A video game player enters a reality that can be twisted and changed around with a blink of an eye by competitive rivals and powerful allies. It is in these same dimensions that high school students can take a real life class. The class is Virtual Enterprise and it's open to all Queens Voc business majors.

Ms. Mitchell, the VE coordinator and accounting teacher for business students, directs the class in room 412, "the room with the cubicles."

According to veinternational.org, from the ages of 16 to 17, students get to experience how the business world actually works, participating in a simulated business that is developed and run by students. This program allows students to explore a few of the many responsibilities an employee in an actual business environment faces, "familiarizing them with the dos and don'ts of the workplace" said Ms. Mitchell.

There are over 3,000 VE firms around the world. "The program exposes students to different cultures, business practices, and currencies, and gives students a broader international perspective," said Ms. Mitchell. Students engage in hands-on applications, problem

solving, and written and verbal communication by engaging with other businesses selling their products or services. "This is an experience for the real world. I'm in the web design department and the posters I'm making would help me if I ever got into advertising," said Nesla Velovic, who, Ms. Mitchell said is one of the top students



Ms. Mitchell and the Diverse City Wear leaders.

in this year's Virtual Enterprise class. In addition, students learn about a variety of careers related to business, acquire global economic knowledge, and use technology as applied in business such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. "Full understanding of how the computer operates would help very much since computers are used very often in a job relating

to business," Ms. Mitchell said.

The departments names virtual enterprise has are human resources, accounting, product development, and production, distribution, marketing and sales. They engage in trade with other practice firms around the world. "It's a fun experience and it teaches you how business

is like in the real world," said Kanwardeep Singh, another top student in Virtual Enterprise, according to Ms. Mitchell.

Queens Voc's is a Virtual Enterprise named Diverse City Wear. The students advertise, design, and manage money for different types of clothing and they sell a number of accessories for all types of occasions.

"We just completed

working with the Ad Council for the Advertising Futures. Out of 36 schools, Diverse City Wear received honorable mention," said Ms. Mitchell. The Advertising Futures competition pits VE firms against each other to develop the best advertising campaign.

The class is comprised of with mostly juniors and a couple of seniors. "If DiverseCitywear were to be an actual business rather than simulated, I would be comfortable running the business and having students part of the business," Ms. Mitchell said.

When students don't do their part and slack off, the whole company or class ends up paying the price because they lose out on a huge profit. "Even though the money is not real, it still hurts the same," Ms. Mitchell said. The VE students are graded just like any other student but get money deducted from their simulated salaries because of their tardiness and the lack of effort in their tasks.

Ms. Mitchell has been leading the business for two years. She said that when she's in VE, "I feel like I am back in Corporate America rather than being a teacher,"

she said.

National and international trade shows, local and national business plan competitions, and the Global Business Challenge are key components of the VE program that enable students to gain valuable experience in communications, technology, global business, and the world of work. Trade shows are held each year and provide students with opportunities to present and market the products/services of their virtual business in a competitive marketplace. Trade show competitions allow students to demonstrate their skills, knowledge, and diverse talents in marketing, communications, computer technology, and global business.



Taking orders for DCW.

## TEACHING TEACHERS TO TEACH

by Lisbeth Marmolejos

The Teacher Mentor Program at Queens Voc gives aspiring teachers a chance to gain classroom experience while obtaining a bachelor's degree. There are 12 residents in this program at Queens Voc.

The Department of Education selects the teachers who are in this program. Ms. Antoine, Ms. Frias, Ms. Gardner, Ms. King, Mr. Lucas, Ms. McCombs, Ms. Millsap, Ms. Morel, Ms. Nadler, Mr. Pierini, Mr. Romeo, and Ms. Salas are the residents at Queens Voc.

The residents are mentored by eight mentor teachers: Ms. Ferrara, an algebra teacher, Ms. Green, Ms. Ridge, and Mr. Ackerman, English teachers, and Mr. Stefanidis, Ms. Wilson, Ms. DeCarlo, and Mr. Gallagher, social studies teachers. "I like being a part of this program," Ms. Ferrara said, "because it gives me a chance to refresh my learning. I'm done with college, so it gives me a chance to teach."

Ms. Green said, "The residents have many skills and

qualities to offer our school and students." The residents are known as co-teachers. They take turns teaching with the mentors.

Ms. McCombs is Ms.

**"Becoming a teacher gives me the opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of so many students."**

Ferrara's resident. "My job," she said, "is to observe Ms. Ferrara's teaching to better my teaching skills that I later apply in the classroom. This is a tough job. You work from morning to night. I was up until 10pm doing lesson plans."

Ms. DeCarlo has two residents, Ms. Antoine and Mr. Pierini. Ms. Antoine said, "My patience has been tested from

working as a resident. I learned to understand others better. It's difficult coming from the private sector to a public sector because everything is much slower at a public school." Mr. Pierini said he "learned that it's important to have good communication skills in order for the students to understand directions."

To become a part of the Teacher Mentor Program, the residents have to apply to the program by filling out an application, and attending an interview. "Since all the residents are gaining their degree during the regular school year, we'll be full time teachers next year. I plan on going for my Ph.D. in education/special education after this program," Ms. Millsap said. The residents aren't in Queens Voc on Fridays because they have to attend college to earn their master's degree.

"Becoming a teacher gives me the opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of so many students," Ms. Millsap said. Ms. McCombs said, "This is a great opportunity. Teaching is my passion."

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

by Daniel Corona

### Clubs and Organizations

- Black History Month - Mrs. Himmel
- College Now - Mrs. Newman
- Constitution Contest - Mr. Davidson
- Cosmo Clinic - Mrs. Quartuccio / Mrs. Gonzales
- FBLA - Ms. Mitchell
- GSA / RAIN - Ms. Kurnitz
- Mock Trial Team - Mr. Davidson
- Mouse Squad - Mr. David
- Poetry Slam - Mrs. Himmel
- Robotics Club - Mr. Ali
- School Newspaper - Mr. Schimenz
- Senior Class - Mr. Vega
- Senior Yearbook - Ms. Green / Ms. DeCarlo
- Skills USA - Mr. Cintron / Mr. Rivera
- Student Organizations - Mr. Vega
- Work-Based Learning - Ms. Spallone
- Fitness Club (winter) - Mr. Schimenz

### Sports Coaches

- Boys' Soccer - Mr. Ali
- Boys' Bowling - Mr. Devaux
- Girls' Bowling - Mr. Garofano
- Girls' Volleyball - Mr. Boyle
- Co-ed Wrestling - Mr. Zambrotta
- Boys' Varsity Basketball - Mr. Maloney
- Boys' JV Basketball - Mr. Daniel
- Girls' Basketball - Mr. Devaux
- Boys' Varsity Baseball - Mr. Schimenz
- Boys' JV Baseball - Mr. Cintron
- Girls' Softball - Mr. Boyle
- Co-ed Handball - Mr. Maloney



## Students Raise \$\$\$ to Fight Breast Cancer

by Eliana Moronta

Forty-one Queens Voc students walked beside Ms. Burg, Mr. Vega, and Ms. Rejalaga, at the annual Making Strides Against Cancer Walk on Sunday, Oct. 16 at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. The Queens Voc representatives and student raised \$2,625.76 to help fight the deadly disease.

Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, said he is very pleased that forty-one students raised so much money.

"There were only girls from Queens Voc at the event because leadership consists of mostly girls," said Mr. Rejalaga, an English teacher at Queens Voc.

Queens Voc students and staff met up at the registration area, which began at 9am. The walk began at 11am and ended



**Uniting to fight a disease that kills 41,000 people a year.**

around 2pm.

In Sunday's three-mile walk, students walked alongside many survivors, friends, and families, in memory of women who have been affected by breast cancer.

"There were a lot of kids there. Our girls were so energetic and showed school spirit," said Ms. Rejalaga. "I am definitely doing it next year,"

she said.

For a week, students raised money for the walk. The money will be used to help provide mammograms to women around the United States.

"It's great to know that through this fundraiser I was able to contribute to the researching of a cure for breast cancer," said junior Kimani Brown, who attended the walk.

## New iMacs Transform Graphic Arts & Web Design

by Philip Borisuck Jr.

The new iMacs have arrived!

The computers have been installed in room 454, for the use of freshmen, sophomores, and seniors, who major in graphic arts and business.

The 30 iMacs cost roughly \$1,100 each, a total of approximately of \$33,000. Room 454 was in need of an upgrade from the old Dell laptops, which ran half as slow as the new iMacs said Ms. Ogunka.

"The new computers affect the students' learning by providing them with more learning tools than are industry standard," said Ms. Ogunka, a graphics design teacher. In the past, students worked with regular Dell PCs, which couldn't keep up with the lat-

est software.

The iMacs include software such as Photoshop, iPhoto, and Adobe Flash Player that is designed to educate students on how to create multimedia works, such as creating movies and advertisements. "The software on the computer also offers an opportunity for the students to increase their skills... it has also helped my teaching because I am able to enhance the real-life experience of each lesson," said Ms. Ogunka.

"The iMacs are good to use," said Wendy, a sophomore who majors in graphic design. "I enjoy the features and apps, like Photoshop and Illustrator." John Gamble, a sophomore who majors in graphic design said, "The iMacs are good and helpful, I find everything about the iMac interesting."



**Students learning on state-of-the-art computers.**

## QV Welcomes New Teachers

by Jonathan Gordon

Four new teachers are helping prepare Queens Voc students for college and careers. Mr. Altenburg, Mrs. Mendez, Ms. Ogunka, and Ms. Sameyah, have joined the ranks of many of the well-established and experienced teachers at Queens Voc.

Mr. Altenburg teaches math in the School of Skilled Building Trades. He teaches: Geometry, Algebra 2 and Trigonometry, and Pre-Calculus. He enjoys "imparting knowledge to students," he said. He chose Queens Vocational and Technical High School because he said, he had been working in construction for nine years as an estimator and when he found out that there were schools that specialized in vocational fields, it intrigued him. Mr. Altenburg graduated with a bachelor's degree in science from St. Francis College in Brooklyn. He is currently in the process of getting his master's degree in secondary education.

Mrs. Mendez, a new social studies teacher, joined the ranks of the School of Computer and Electronic Engineering Technologies teaching Global History. This isn't her first time teaching, as she has worked with younger kids before at Christ the King Preschool. "The workload is absolutely more. I have five classes versus just one. It's like five times the workload," she said. Mrs.

## SMART Boards Installed to Help Make Smart Kids

by Jashua Cora

focused on the SMART Board get their work done.

SMART Boards are an innovative way of introducing technology into schools across the country, including Queens Voc, which recently installed new SMART Boards in fifteen classrooms.

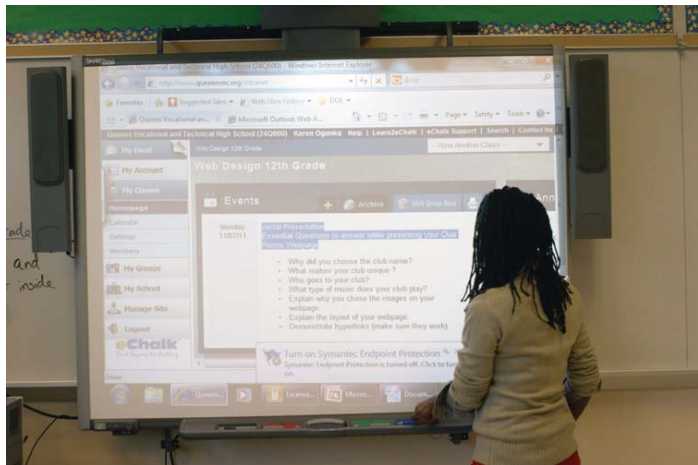
SMART Boards are meant to enhance the way students and teachers connect in the classroom, "making lessons more simple and interesting," said Mr. Raynor, a math teacher.

"A SMART Board is a wannabe iPad on a dry eraser board," said freshman Sophia Hormazo. "Teens are more into technology. I love it; it is less messy because the markers aren't real."

SMART technology seems to have made a difference to students such as Sophia, changing the classroom learning environment with a board that catches teenagers' attention. Students,

Elizabeth Navarrete, a freshman, said, "SMART Boards are better than whiteboards because they make the class more fun. Using technology, more kids pay attention and therefore more work is done." The new SMART Boards have helped the students focus. No chalk or inked markers are needed to write, making the teaching environment less messy.

Mr. Raynor thinks that SMART Boards are more efficient. "I think it is nice that as a teacher, there is less of a portability issue. I don't have to write my lesson on the chalkboard. I can simply plug in my USB and my work will be right there. It is also faster to set up and print files. Compared to a chalkboard, SMART Boards are cleaner and because I don't have to clean it, a lot more work can be done."



**Ms. Ogunka regularly uses her SMART Board.**

Mendez taught at Queens Voc four years ago, when she was a student teacher. "I love the community, it's not too big and it's a very welcoming environment. When I heard there was an opening I was very excited," she said. Mrs. Mendez went to Queens College and earned a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education. Her husband, Mr. Mendez, is an electrical installation teacher and dean.

Ms. Sameyah, a first year teacher, teaches in the School of Exploration and Discovery. She teaches math: Algebra, and Geometry. "I love math; it makes sense. The thing about math is that no matter what you do there is always an answer," she said. Ms. Sameyah chose Queens Voc because she likes that the school trains students for work in the trades and in business, and the whole community feeling of the school. Ms. Sameyah graduated from Yeshiva University with a bachelor's degree in financial

management. She also has an associate's degree in Judaic studies, and a master's degree in mathematics. Before working at Queens Voc, she was in real estate, finance, and law.

Ms. Ogunka is a new Graphic Arts and Web Design teacher in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies. She has been teaching for about 10 years. "I was at JFK High School in the Bronx, and before that I floated around at a few high schools as a sub," she said. Ms. Ogunka chose Queens Voc because "it is well structured in what they're teaching. You walk in for plumbing and you get exactly that." She said she enjoys, "teaching design principles that go beyond the concept." She graduated from NYC Technical College with an associate's degree in advertising. Ms. Ogunka earned her bachelor's degree in design art with a minor in education from Brooklyn College, and earned her master's degree in science education from Pace University.



## Dressed Inappropriately or is the School OD'ing?

by Daniela Vidal

Isn't it annoying when you're stopped in the hallway by Ms. Ocampo because she claims you're wearing inappropriate clothing for school?

"Yes it annoys me because what I'm wearing isn't a distraction nor is it extremely revealing," said Lorissa Rosario, who has been stopped twice by Ms. Ocampo. But "School is a place to learn, not a fashion show," said Ms. Ocampo, who added that enforcing dress codes is a way of avoiding young ladies being harassed during and after school.

Just what kind of clothing is "inappropriate"? Who decides? Don't students have a sense of what is appropriate and what isn't?

Girls are often stopped at the entrance to Queens Voc because they're wearing short skirts, small shorts, belly shirts, or because their shoulders are too exposed. Some boys are stopped because they're wearing their pants too low or because they have a hat on.

What are the consequences? Ms. Ocampo sends the girls to change into their gym clothes and she calls their parents to address the issue. Deans take the boys' hats away and usually return them at the end of the day.

"Our school is a specialized school and our students will be the future business owners, robotic engineers, computer technicians, cosmetologist, and graphic artists and for that they will all have to dress and act professional," said Ms. Ocampo, "There's a time and place for everything."

"I was wearing shorts with designed tights under and a t-shirt when I was stopped," said Lorissa Rosario. "I don't feel my attire was inappropriate at all. All required areas

were covered and the outfit was tasteful." Lorissa said that she feels these dress codes take away students' individualism because students dress based on how they're feeling and on current trends, and that shouldn't be taken away unless the attire is truly offensive.

"What can a hat possibly do to disrupt a class or the hallways, it's just an object," said Jonathan Castro.

Girls and boys in school should follow the dress code for their own safety and to show professionalism. As Ms. Ocampo said, there's a time and place for everything, and school isn't the place to dress unprofessionally especially since we are a CTE school and students are preparing to enter college.

We may think that we're not offending or disrupting other classmates with our attire, but there are times when certain clothing exposes too much for school and it might make others uncomfortable. Let's not forget we're in a public school where people from different religions, cultures and ideologies enter, and not everyone has the same views.

Suppose someone walks into Queens Voc looking for interns. Students who are hoping for internships might want to give them the first right impression. Some adults may view your clothing as a way of demonstrating who you are or what type of person you might be.

While students keep thinking they are expressing their individualism, they may be costing themselves opportunities for internships and jobs simply because their outfit didn't leave a good first impression.

Right now, as high school students, we might think these policies are ridiculous, but once we enter adulthood, then we'll probably understand.



How low can it go?

We can be contacted by e-mail:  
Letters@VocVoice.org  
Editor@VocVoice.org

## Vocational Voice

Queens Vocational & Technical High School

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

Tel 718.937.3010  
Fax 718.392.8397

Online at VocVoice.org

**Ms. Melissa Burg**  
Principal

**Mr. Alikakos**  
AP, Administration

**Ms. Radovich**  
AP, Humanities

**Mr. Rob Schimenz**  
Advisor

Editor-in-Chief  
**Daniel Corona**

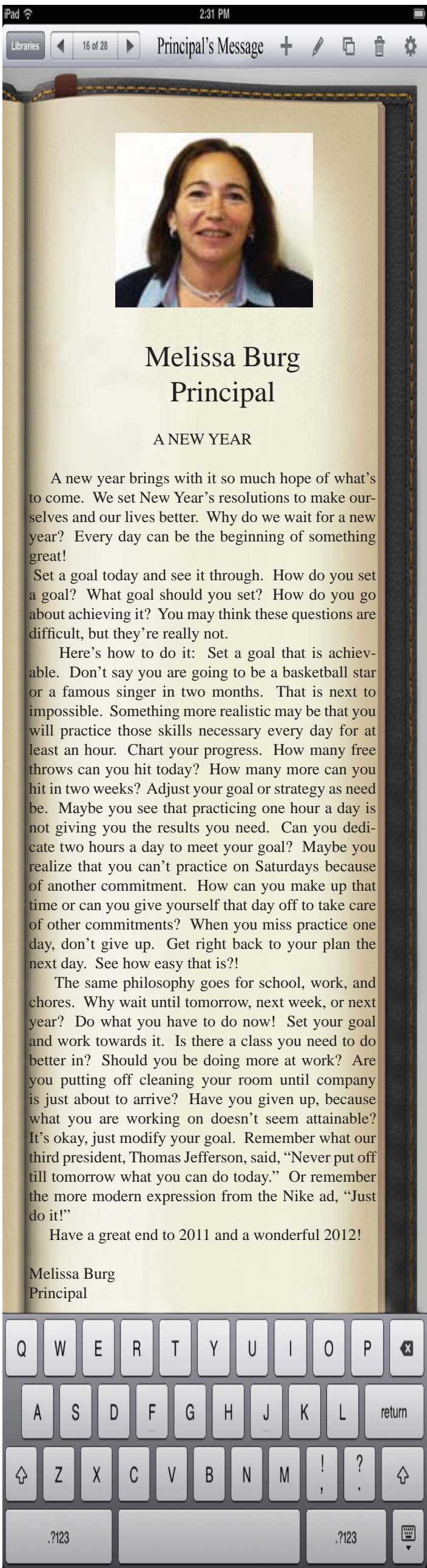
Managing Editor  
**Bryant Cartagena**  
**Diony Perez**

Layout Editors  
**Juan Alzate**  
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**Eliana Moronta**  
**Tina Pahlad**  
**Stefanie Sierra**  
**Nohely Vazquez**  
**Daniela Vidal**

**Contributors**  
Muneeza Ahmed  
Muhammad Allie  
Philip Borisuck  
Tina Callanan  
Alice Chee  
Jashua Cora  
Alexis Crespin  
Ashley Deaza  
Abdoulaye Diallo  
Chorten Dolma  
Eddie Fernandez  
Francisco Frias  
Biaani Garcia  
Luis Gonzales  
Jonathan Gordon  
KellyAnn Kato  
Lisbeth Marmolejos  
Sylvester Nimako  
Yanil Ortiz  
Zuleyma Pena  
Jarin Rahman  
Evelin Ramirez  
Yaw Teh  
Sanjeev Thapa  
John Tosado

**Photographs by:**  
Muhammad Allie, Daniel Corona,  
Keivan Jimenez, and Diony Perez

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





# Ms. Vittor says Goodbye to Queens Voc

Dear Queens Voc faculty, students, and parents,

Good-byes are difficult. Some are sentimental, some are matter of fact, but all mark the turning of a page in time. So this is for me, the turning of a page that ends a long but exciting chapter in my career as well as a chapter in the history of Queens Vocational and Technical HS. It also marks the beginning of a new chapter for me and the future of Queens Vocational and Technical HS.

At the end of every chapter, one should take time to reflect on the events within the chapter and of their importance. Toward that end, I have had time to reflect on the 16 years spent at QV and what it has meant to me. When I entered in September 1995 as a teacher coordinator for the Instructional Support Services Department, I had no idea where this new path would lead. What I did know was that this was a wonderful, nurturing environment where the faculty really cared about the students and shaping their future in a positive way. I believed that the school's focus on CTE and academics was instrumental to student success and that I could contribute in a way that made a difference. That purpose inspired me every day as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. When I was given the chance to lead QVTHS into the 21st century, I was honored to accept.

So as I look back on some things that have now become commonplace, I realize together we have forever changed the face of QVTHS. The first 5 years of my leadership were focused on transforming the structure of the school, both physically and organizationally. The students deserved a better school. The new wing was a labor of love. This meant I had to step into the world of construction and advocate for the school



*Principal Vittor gives words of advice to students.*

community to get what we needed, not what cost less, or made the architects happy. I was intricately involved in all of the building construction and improvements, and it seemed as though the school was constantly under construction. Actually, every year I was principal was a major construction year, so the building truly was under construction. The renovations ultimately resulted in more teams, more clubs, more extra- curricular activities and events. The goal: more school spirit.

Although the building renovations resulted in a tremendous transformation, it paled in comparison to the CTE program approval process and SLC movement which would change the way we educated every student each day. We actively recruited college and industry partners. Then we began the Career Day tradition to link partners to the school to provide insight into life after high school. We formed Small Learning Communities (SLCs) where students and teachers would now belong by choice. Teacher teams would meet daily to discuss their students, plan projects, review strategies and learn new ones, and analyze data together. Students would have lots of opportunities to take college courses. Each SLC would have its own licensing and certifications, industry and post secondary partners, and internship opportunities, too. The goal: more opportunities for

students to belong, excel, and become career and college ready.

When I reflect upon my principalship at Queens Voc, the overriding theme seems to be passion and action that effects change. I believe I helped make the school a better place both in structure and instruction. I hope you believe this too. The students, parents and faculty have inspired me throughout the years. I have learned a great deal from you all through the years. I only hope the feeling is mutual. We had a wonderful, eventful journey that brought the school from a "C" to an "A" rating on the NYC progress report, from "proficient" to "well developed" in the quality review, and to good standing on the NY State Report Card. More importantly, you the students are getting the education you deserve and the preparation you need for life after high school.

I have always believed in CTE because it showcases hands on learning, and application of knowledge. As mentor principal, I was lacking the hands on application of being a principal. Though it was extremely difficult to leave you all, the time had come for me to lead another school that needed passion and action and change. Grover Cleveland HS is a school much like QVTHS, a nurturing environment where the faculty and staff really care about the students. Now I am ready to begin my new chapter but it will always be based on and related to the previous chapter, my years at QVTHS. It was a great chapter. Now we must turn the page.

Sincerely,  
Denise Vittor  
Principal 2/2001 – 9/2010  
Transformation Mentor  
Principal 9/2010- 9/2011

## How Should Disruptive Students be Handled?

by Fitore Morina

Some classes have a student who throws a paper ball, or decides it's ok to get up and walk, affecting the teacher's ability to teach which affects the class' ability to learn. How should disruptive students be handled?

In Queens Voc, there are different ways in which disruptive students are handled. According to Mr. Rodriguez, a dean, "there are a lot of referrals. And there are many ways to deal with students who are being disruptive in class. Usually, the student is first given a warning. If the behavior happens again, a call home should be made by the teacher. If the call home hasn't solved the problem and further misbehavior occurs, the students will either be referred to guidance or the deans." Eventually, the students who continue to misbehave will be suspended.

Queens Voc students have their own ideas about how disruptive students should be handled.

"Disruptive students should be given more work to do," said Marie Vargas, a freshman, "so it could be hard for them

to pass. Maybe this way, they will stop misbehaving and start acting right."

Javier Zambrano, another freshman, said, "They should be put in a group with other students who are disruptive, and talk about their issues to see why they are acting this way." He believes that disruptive students should have a place where they talk out their problems to try to get to the root of them, and maybe solve the problems so their behavior changes.

America Cedamano, a senior, said "They should be put in detention for what they did depending on how big the problem is."

Katherin Arias, another senior, said "The students should be taken out of class and be put in a room by themselves so they don't distract the class, and hopefully learn their lesson."

No matter the consequence, all of the students interviewed want disruptive students out of their classes, even if they differ about how they should be handled.

Teachers are no different. Mr. Burkhart, an English teacher, said that "There should

be zero tolerance for disruptive students. There should be severe consequences depending on the infraction."

Mr. Elfreich, another English teacher, said "They should be sent to in-house that actually means something. Students here see in-house as a joke. The students should have to do a lot of work and do extra assignments in order to get out. The students go there, fool around, text, read newspapers, and act as if they didn't receive any punishment for what they did."

Are some students in class too disruptive? Should they be punished, or should counselors help the students try to get to the root of their problems?

Whichever way you look at the issue, neither teachers nor students like to be bothered with disruptive students. Teachers can't get through their lessons, and students don't get to learn.

**How do you think disruptive students should be handled?**

**Holiday  
Open Mic  
Night**  
Tuesday  
December 20  
4:30pm-6:30pm  
Auditorium  
Tickets:  
\$1 - SO members  
\$2 - non SO members  
For more information see  
Ms. Himmel in room 143A  
or  
Mr. Daniel in room 102



If you were one of the teachers in the school, who would you be and why?

## Inquiring Photographer

by Zuleyma Pena

**Tatiana Rodriguez**  
Freshman - Exploratory



"Ms. Ferrara, she is so little and nice."

**Elliot Ortiz**  
Sophomore - EI



"Mr. Cintron is beast and I like the way he teaches."

**Evan Durate**  
Freshman - C-Tech



"Mr. Burkhart, because he is funny and he is cool."

**Elias Colon**  
Junior - EI



"Mr. Stefanidis, because he could read people's minds and he's really smart."

**Jessika Guerrero**  
Junior - Graphic Arts



"Mr. Elfreich, because he understands people and respects them, like me."

**Lorissa Rosario**  
Senior - Cosmetology



"I'd be Mr. Burkhart, because I love English and he makes the class fun."

**Jennifer Rojas**  
Senior - Cosmetology



"I'd be Ms. D'Onofrio, because she's always on point and determined, she looks out for her students and always wants us to try our best in order to succeed."

**Estefania Villegas**  
Sophomore - Graphic Arts



"Ms. Green, because I love her and she is nice and she knows how to take a joke."

**Kevin Hernandez**  
Sophomore - C-Tech



"I'd pick Mr. Yu, because he knows a lot about computers, seems very smart, and knows what he is doing."

**Herwell Tovar**  
Senior - Business



"I would be Mr. Burkhart, because he is funny, he makes the class fun and interesting and keeps the kids busy and wanting to come back."

**Bryan Jacobo**  
Freshman - Exploratory



"Mr. Boyle, cause I love gym, he is a nice guy, lets people have fun and has lots of hair."

**Cindy Collado**  
Junior - Cosmetology



"Ms. D'Onofrio, because she is the best. I'm learning a lot from her and I look up to her as a cosmetologist."

**Gregory Rousseau**  
Senior - EI



"I'd be Mr. Zambrotta, because he gets on the students level and tells them the truth and doesn't sugar coat it."

**Yubelyn Cruel**  
Sophomore - Cosmetology



"Ms. DeCarlo, because she is a good teacher, she is nice, fun, and energetic, and she is always happy."

**Corbin Aldridge**  
Senior - Plumbing



"I would be Mr. McCarthy, because he sits around all day and he has an easy and fun job."

**Alex Pena**  
Junior - EI



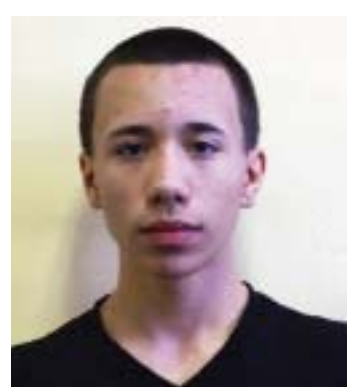
"Mr. Vega because of his jokes. He is funny, cool, and awesome."

**Sebastian Garcia**  
Junior - C-Tech



"Mr. Raushan, because he is goofy and funny."

**Derek Perez**  
Sophomore - Cosmetology



"If I were a teacher I would be Ms. Kramer, because I would like to be multi-tasked."

**What teacher would you be?**



# Why Freshmen Applied

by Sanjeev Thapa

Questions:

1. How did you hear about Queens Voc?
2. Which aspects of the school made you want to be part of Queens Voc?
3. Which shop provided by Queens Voc helped you on your decision to choose a high school?
4. What goals have you set upon entering Queens Voc? How can Queens Voc help you achieve these goals?
5. Why did you decide to come to Queens Voc?
6. Has your impression about Queens Voc changed from eighth grade till now? If so how?
7. Would you transfer out? Why or why not?



**Javier Urena**

1. My friends told me about this school.
2. The variety of shop programs that Queens Voc provided.
3. Electrical installation.
4. I want to pass the Regents and attend college. Queens Voc can offer me extended classes to help me with my Regents.
5. I decided to come to Queens Voc because I heard that many girls attend this school.
6. No, I still think Queens Voc is a big school.
7. Maybe, because Brooklyn Tech seems to have more advanced tech programs.



**Cynthia Mejia**

1. My sister who is currently attending Queens Voc.
2. My sister attends this school and I was interested in the shop program.
3. Business.
4. A goal that I have is to get

more than a 90 on my Regents. Queens Voc helps me by getting the teachers to help me prepare.

5. I thought that the school was close and I wanted to be in the school with my sister and my cousins.
6. Yes, I thought that the school was going to be boring but I actually enjoy being in this school.
7. I wouldn't transfer out because I really like the way this school is and my friends are here.



**Alex Velasco**

1. I heard about Queens Voc from my sister.
2. I liked the variety of shop classes that Queens Voc provided.
3. Electrical installation.
4. Graduate from Queens Voc with a license. Queens Voc can help me by providing me with the best shop classes.
5. I came for the shop classes.
6. No, it hasn't.
7. No, because I like Queens Voc.



**Sophia Hormaza**

1. My mom works around the school.
2. I liked the variety of sports Queens Voc offered.
3. Cosmetology.
4. I have three goals: to join a sport, do my homework, and stop being lazy. Queens Voc helps me with this by the teachers scaring me a lot and pushing me to do my best.
5. I really don't know.
6. Yes, I thought I would get put in a locker or get bullied by now.
7. No, I really like this school now and the friends I have made here.



**Elsi Saigado**

1. My friends told me about this school.
2. I heard that in Queens Voc there was a lot of success and so I thought I would succeed in this school.
3. Business.
4. My goals are to graduate and do the best I can. The school can help me by giving me the right work.
5. I decided to come to this school because I thought I would like it, and I do.
6. Yes, my impression has changed from eighth grade till now because back then I just heard of the school and that it was great. Now that I'm in it, this school feels better than great. It's more than what I thought it would be.
7. No, I wouldn't transfer out because I like this school.



**Hellen Guzman**

1. My godfather is a teacher in Queens Voc and he put Queens Voc on my application.
2. I heard about all the different programs and put it in my application and got accepted.
3. Exploratory.
4. The goal I aim for in Queens Voc is the same goal I set for myself everywhere: to get high grades. I don't think it will be a problem; it's easy to pass.
5. The school chose me; I wasn't really interested but Queens Voc really changed my mind.
6. My impression of Queens Voc has changed from eighth grade till now because I used to think high school as a fairytale because of the shows, however, since I came to this school, it's more realistic.
7. I would transfer out because I live all the way in Richmond Hill. However, if it wasn't for that I would stay in this school for all 4 years.



**Abigail Arriaga**

1. From a friend that graduated from Queens Voc.
2. I came to Queens Voc because of the cosmetology program.
3. Cosmetology.
4. To gain all my credits and focus on cosmetology. Queens Voc can help me by helping me learn what I need to learn.
5. I decided to come to Queens Voc because I heard the cosmetology program in this school was really good.
6. Yes, at first I didn't want to come to this school because I didn't like it but after two months in this school it changed my mind with all the different programs.
7. Yes, because I really wanted to go to a medical school but I got accepted here.



**Manuel Medina**

1. My friend told me that they had a good program.
2. The business programs that Queens Voc provided.
3. Business.
4. I really didn't set any goals.
5. I heard it was a good school and I wanted to go to Queens Voc.
6. No, it hasn't.
7. No, because this school looks good.



**Jesus Palao**

1. I heard about Queens Voc from the people on my local soccer team. Some of the play-

ers went to this school.

2. The school soccer team.
3. Robotics.
4. To do well in class and graduate. By giving more homework and classwork.
5. I came for the robotics team and the soccer team.
6. No.
7. No, because all my friends are here.



**Ashley Carvajal**

1. My parents told me about Queens Voc.
2. I wanted to be part of Queens Voc because of its cosmetology program.
3. Cosmetology.
4. To pass all my classes and succeed. By giving me good classes.
5. I wanted to come because it was a new experience and for cosmetology.
6. It hasn't changed; I thought it was a good school and it is.
7. No, I like this school.



**Jayson Fernandez**

1. My cousin, a senior in Queens Voc, told me about the school.
2. The shop programs because they were interesting.
3. I came for electrical installation.
4. I set a goal of passing high school and graduating to college. Queens Voc can help me with more interesting classes.
5. I came to Queens Voc because of the girls.
6. No, my impression is still the same.
7. No, I wouldn't because this is a good school.

**Why are you here?**



Beats that Hit the Charts

by Marcia Leva

Someone Like You by Adele

Adele, a British singer, has come back this year with a bang! Her last album released in 2010 called Rolling in the Deep, saw the song “Chasing Pavements” hit the number one charts and the album was nominated for seven MTV Video Music Awards. This year, “Someone Like You” was released and has become another number one hit in the U.S., and other countries. The album is based on her emotions at the end of her relationship with boyfriend Gareth Jones. The lyrics are written with much depth and passion on the subjects of love, heartbreak, and letting go. Many listeners find themselves able to relate to the album, as many of us have gone through some sort of heartbreak. Her music is listed under the genre of pop, soul, and blues, if you want to listen.

The Paper Chronicles II by Gym Class Heroes

Gym Class Heroes and Adam Levine of Maroon 5, have collaborated on the latest album that came out this year called *The Paper Chronicles II*. “Stereo Love” instantly became

a hit, taking the charts by storm and knocking other songs from the top charts. What makes people want to listen to the song is the fun beat and lovely lyrics that bring a smile and uplifts moods.

It’s been played constantly on the radio, making it a popular song among students. So if you want something upbeat and fun, I’d say take a listen to “Stereo Love” because it will do just that.

Blue Slide Park by Mac Miller

With lyrics filled with so much life it is possible Mac Miller will be topping the charts very soon. He is an American rapper from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who started off in a rap group and later went solo, signing with Rostrum Records. He made multiple mix tapes that went into singles like “Donald Trump,” one of my favorites, “Knock, Knock,” “On and On,” “Frick Park Market,” and “Party on Fifth Ave.” This led to the release of his first official album on Nov. 8, 2011, called Blue Slide Park. The song “Up All Night” is an earful of fun because of its catchy beats and straight forward lyrics that you don’t get a lot of from other artists. He might not be as well-known as Drake or Lil Wayne, but he is one rapper with skills that will blow your mind.

QV’s Embarrassing Stories

by Biaani Garcia

Eric Paternina Freshman

“My friend Jordan and I put on leggings and a tank top. We were dancing to ‘Put a Ring On It’ in the auditorium.”

Sandra Campis Freshman

“I was in my aunt’s house in New Jersey with my cousins. When we went to bed that night they came into my room and left a camera next to me to film me sleeping. In the video, you could hear me snoring and see my shorts slipping off as I moved around.”

Andres Puli Sophomore

“I was playing soccer and I saw some girls walk by. I told them the next shot was gonna be for them. I kicked at the ball but I missed it completely and busted my butt.”

Jordan Balcacer Freshman

“I was dancing on stage to Michael Jackson. I was in my zone. I did a split and I ripped my jeans.”

Gabriela Santiago Junior

“In Kindergarten I went to the bathroom that was inside the classroom. While I was washing my hands, the teacher pointed out that my skirt was tucked inside my pantyhose. All the students saw everything.”

Taha Hatab Senior

“There was a presentation about life, with Mrs. Star, for the senior class. I volunteered. She asked me to jog in place and go faster when she said ‘ding.’ I’m fluffy and I had to jog in front of the whole senior class.”

Osvaldo Nunez Sophomore

“I was in my house and I heard the ice cream truck outside so I ran out. That’s when I realized I was in my boxers.”

Bryan Restrepo Junior

“Freshman year I was walking in front of a cute girl. I was trying to look cool but then I tripped.”

WORD

SCRAMBLE

by Tina Pahlad

1. GRTSIE

— — G — — —

3. GTNREES

R — — — — —

5. LPBIUNMG

— — — — B — — —

7. SUBSINES

— — S — — — —

9. CMSRROTFI

— — C — — — — —

11. LHBLAADN

— — — — — — L

2. LSADPIEERH

— E — — E — — — —

4. IPNTA

— — — — —

6. YHSPICS

— — — — — — —

8. WBLONGI

— — — L — — —

10. STSIRORSE

R — — — — — — S

12. ANMEQMUNI

M — — — — — — —

WORD SOUP

by Abdoulaye Diallo

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

ART	GRADES	LUNCH	QUIZ	SLC
BOOK	GYM	OFFICE	READ	TEST
CTECH	HOMEWORK	PLUMBING	SCEET	VOCATION
DEAN	JUNIOR	PROJECT	SENIOR	
ESSAY	LATE	QUEENS	SES	

Thinking of graduating?

Pay your senior dues by February 1st

Word Scramble  
Answers:  
1) Tigers  
2) Leadership  
3) Regents  
4) Paint  
5) Plumbing  
6) Physics  
7) Business  
8) Bowling  
9) Microsoft  
10) Restiors  
11) Handball  
12) Mannequin



# SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Zuleyma Pena

**Lucy Ramirez**



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

"Lucy is a really great player and does her best always."  
-Kiara DeLarosa

"She has been a wonderful addition to the bowling team. Knowing that she is an athlete in the school convinced me to believe that she would pick up the sport of bowling very quickly and that's been the case."  
-Mr. Garofano

**Michelle Pineda**



Age: 18  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: B-Team  
Years on Team: 1

"This is Michelle's first year being on the team and she started out a little bit rocky but then the veterans on the team gave her advice which made her improve very well. She has improved."  
-Kimani Brown

"Michelle brings energy to the team. She has picked up the sport very nicely."  
-Mr. Garofano

**Shakirra Smith**



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

"Shakirra is a good bowler for the B-Team. She is very energetic and lively."  
-Priya Seejoor

"Shakirra has also been a great addition to the B-Team. Knowing that she is an athlete, I anticipated that she would pick up the sport quickly and that has been the case."  
-Mr. Garofano

**Karla Garcia**



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

"She's become a good player over the course of the season and is a huge help by being on our B-Team. Karla is a big contributor."  
-Kimani Brown

"Karla has been a nice addition to the B-Team. She picked up the sport very quickly too, for it to be her first year."  
-Mr. Garofano

**Eliana Moronta**



Age: 18  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: A-Team  
Years on Team: 2

"Eliana is a very good bowler. She helps motivate the team, and she gives her teammates pointers."  
-Nichole Perez

"Eliana Moronta is one of the top bowlers of the team. She also finished as one of the top three bowlers and will be making her way to the Individual Tournaments."  
-Mr. Garofano

**Jackie Jimenez**



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

"Jackie is a good player that always tries her hardest."  
-Kiara DeLarosa

"She has also been a nice addition to the team. Also she is a nice help to the B-Team."  
-Mr. Garofano

**Priscilla Delgado**



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

"Priscilla is a good bowler and a powerful thrower."  
-Nichole Perez

"Priscilla has been a great addition to the B-Team and has been a very effective bowler."  
-Mr. Garofano

**Salvatore Isabella**



Age: 18  
Team: Boys' Bowling  
Position: B-Team  
Years on Team: 4

"Sal is a talented bowler, I've watched him become better."  
-Jonathan Henry

"Sal is a four-year veteran and a pretty consistent bowler. He has gotten better every year on the team."  
-Mr. Devaux

**Cristian Alcantara**



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

"Cristian is a good player and shows good sportsmanship."  
-John Gamble

"Cristian is a first year member, throughout the year he'll become a reliable bowler."  
-Mr. Devaux

**Alex Bermejo**



Age: 16  
Team: Boys' Bowling  
Position: C-Team  
Years on Team: 1

"Alex is a good bowler and has good sportsmanship."  
-John Gamble

"Alex was also a first-year player. He was very dependable and I wish he would have tried out sooner."  
-Mr. Devaux

## Donate Blood Now!

Your blood can make a difference!

## Blood Drive

**Monday, Dec. 12**

**Time: 8am - 2pm**

**Where: Auditorium**

**To make an appointment, see Mr. Vega in room 143 or see a leadership student.**





# SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Zuleyma Pena

**Paul Paulino**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Bowling  
Position: C-Team  
Years on Team: 2

"Paul is funny. He knows how to have a good time. He keeps the team's spirit up."

-Evan Dunkley

"Paul is a two-year veteran who always worked hard at becoming a better player."

- Mr. Devaux

**Andrew Medina**

Age: 18  
Team: Boys' Bowling  
Position: C-Team  
Years on Team: 1

"Andrew is good, he is very supportive and a good mascot for the team."

-Evan Dunkley

"It was Andrew's first year on the team. He showed a lot of potential. I wished he would have joined years earlier."

-Mr. Devaux

**Christopher Perez**

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

"Chris is a very talented bowler, I was able to watch him grow better. I'm going to miss him, because he was a big part of the team."

-Jonathan Henry

"Chris is a veteran in the team. He is consistent and he is also able to perform well under pressure."

-Mr. Devaux

**Yahirt Artunduaga**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Defense  
Years on Team: 3

"Yahirt is a good defender. I like playing with him because he motivates the team. He puts effort on winning the game."

-Michael Alvarado

"Yahirt has been on the boys varsity roster for three years he plays a good defense, but shouldn't make soccer a career."

-Mr. Ali

**Edwin Guaman**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Defense  
Years on Team: 4

"Edwin is also known as Smiley. He's like one of the best defenders we have. Although he sometimes messes up, he somehow finds a way to make it up."

-Alex Gonzalez

"Edwin has played for all four years of his high school life. He came in with great potential and showed it throughout the years."

- Mr. Ali

**Mark Puma**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Midfield  
Years on Team: 3

"Mark is a play-maker and a finisher. When Mark, Benji, and Avila get the ball, they make plays, the chances of scoring a goal are really high. Mark scored a life saving goal against Wagner, enough to take the team to the quarter finals."

-Alex Gonzalez

"Mark is very talented. He has very great potential and could go very far in soccer."

-Mr. Ali

**John Velasquez**

Age: 18  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Forward  
Years on Team: 4

"John is a good soccer player and he can get far with the skills he has."

-Juan Prado

"John Velasquez is the number one scorer. He has been in the top 5 scorers in PSAL for the past three years. He is very talented, and he plays the game with a lot of heart. He can go very far if he adjusts."

-Mr. Ali

**Jonathan Calderon**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Goalie  
Years on Team: 4

"Jonathan has good goal-keeping skills and makes good saves."

-Mateus Braga

"Jonathan Calderon is one of my main goal tenders. He shows a great love for the game and will be able to do very well in his love for the sport as well as he does in the academics."

-Mr. Ali

**Shady Albakry**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Striker  
Years on Team: 4

"Shady is a good player. He knows how to score and gives good passes."

-Mateus Braga

"Shady has been on the boys soccer team for the last three seasons. He tries very hard and has improved over the last three years. Shady is just lucky on the field."

-Mr. Ali

**Alexandros Kiourkenidis**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Goalie/Defender  
Years on Team: 4

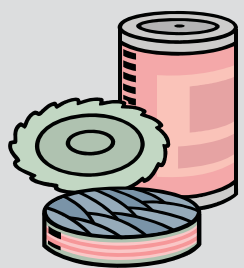
"Alex was a former goalie but now plays defense and he's done a great job so far."

-Gerardo Amigon

"Alex has been on the soccer roster for four years. He has improved goalie and this year he moved from goal tender to defense."

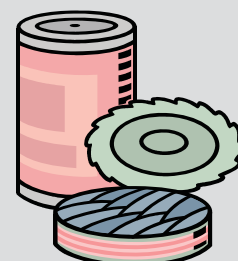
-Mr. Ali

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## City Harvest Food Drive

Canned goods are being collected in room 143  
until Friday, Dec. 16





# SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Zuleyma Pena

**Jorge Calderon**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Forward  
Years on Team: 3

"Jorge is good, he has places where he could improve but overall he's scored a few goals and helped us throughout our season."

-Gerardo Amigon

"Jorge is called the Surfer. He loves the sport and he has ability but shouldn't make soccer a career."

-Mr. Ali

**Bryan Balladares**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Defense  
Years on Team: 4

"Bryan's is a defender and he's done a great job of keeping us in the game." -Gerardo Amigon

"Bryan has been the team's main defense player for the past two years. He is a key player for bringing the team to the semi-finals that we played on November 11."

-Mr. Ali

**Washington Pazmino**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer Team  
Position: Midfield  
Years on Team: 1

"Washington was a good player because when he had the chance to play he gave it his all and he supported us a lot at every game we had. He is a dedicated teammate."

-Michael Alavarado

"Washington plays good but he tried out for the first time in senior year."

-Mr. Ali

**Miguel Sierra**

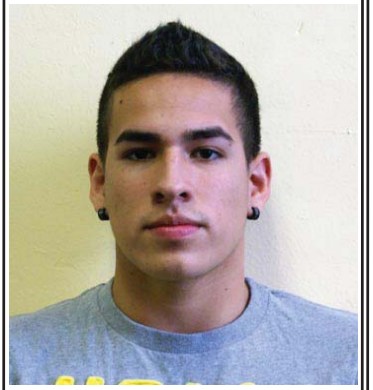
Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Defense  
Years on Team: 1

"Miguel is smart and talented. He always tries his best no matter what the case is and he always helps the team out."

-Jose Recinos

"Miguel has been on the roster. He has played a few minutes as a bench player and he enjoys the game."

-Mr. Ali

**Benji Zamora**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Midfield  
Years on Team: 3

"Benji is a good player and he could get far in life with the skills he has."

-Juan Prado

"Benji has been playing for me for the past three years. He is good and he enjoys playing the game. He is very helpful and is an important part of the team."

-Mr. Ali

**Andres Romero**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Defense  
Years on Team: 3

"Andres is talented and smart. No matter how hard of a task he is given he gives his all and tries his best. He encourages me to play soccer and gives me great advice so I can do better next time."

-Jose Recinos

"Andres Romero has been on the team for the past three years. He loves and plays the game with heart, and whenever he's put on the field he plays his position to his best ability."

-Mr. Ali

**Jonathan Avila**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Soccer  
Position: Midfield  
Years on Team: 4

"I think Avila is a real good and dedicated player. He knows where to put the passes through the midfield for the forward to score and he's one of the reasons that we went to the semi-finals."

-Michael Alvarado

"Jonathan Avila is my captain of the varsity soccer team. He is an excellent player and he is on the PSAL Senior Majors Cup and he is the leader in assists on PSAL."

-Mr. Ali

## Varsity Basketball Tips Off

by Jarin Rahman

After two years of a damaged floor and the partially repaired gym floor, the boys' varsity basketball team played its first home game on Wednesday, Nov. 30. The boys took on Wagner before a packed house, with the deafening cheers of students, teachers, and other supporters. After a back and forth battle, the Tigers lost by a point in the final seconds with the score at 56-55. Wagner might have won the game, but the Tigers took this loss as, "Fuel to win the next game," said Corbin Aldridge, a player on the team.

The tryouts have been held and there are now new team members to play for Queens Voc. Coaching Boys Varsity basketball team for about 17 years, Mr. Maloney, is also the handball coach. "I am still trying to find the identity of our team, to find their strengths, weaknesses and combine them," Mr. Maloney said.



*It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a basketball!*

According to psal.org, there are currently 12 active players and seven inactive players. The season officially began Nov. 30, 2011. Two of the active players are juniors and the other 10 are seniors. These inactive players are not eligible to play yet, "but might be able to get some time on the floor," Coach Maloney said, if they gain eligibility after the second marking period.

The tryouts gave Mr. Maloney a sense of all of his players' basketball ability. Players demonstrated their passing, shooting, and running ability. They also played against each other to show they would respond in game situations.

Last year, the team made it to the playoffs, but fell short during the first round losing to Millenium HS 64-49. The teams' regular season record last year was 10 and 4.

Last year the team wasn't able to conduct at full potential because the school's gym floor was damaged and players had to practice half court. This came as a disadvantage to them, Coach Maloney said, because when they played against a team on a full court, they weren't used to the heavier running. This year however, the gym floor is fixed and players have been able to conduct full court practices.

Corbin Aldridge, one of the active players, says, "The team is finding a way to all work together to be successful." What does he have to say about the current team? "The team is like our family," Corbin said.

Mr. Maloney motivates his players by connecting life with the game. He urges his players to, "Respect the game as you would respect your life, be confident when playing, and try to set a goal in whatever position you are playing."

**For varsity basketball home games check out PSAL.org**



# Girls' Volleyball Team Exceeds Coach Boyle's Expectations



by Runqing Fang

The girls' volleyball team ended its season 2-10, and in sixth place. But that wasn't necessarily a sign of weakness, said Coach Boyle, explaining that the team "lost a few close matches."

The volleyball team defeated Aviation, 2-0, on Thurs., Oct. 13, and defeated Frank Sinatra with the same score on Tues., Oct. 25. The girls lost two close matches, 2-1, to HS for

Construction.

Mr. Boyle said the matches didn't really reflect his players' performance because they improved tremendously and surpassed his expectations. "The girls all shared responsibilities. They would meet in the gym at 4pm and set up the equipment to start practicing. They even complained to me that two hours of practice every day is not enough," he said. Vol-

leyball team member Christian Flores said everyone on the team gets along. "We are like a big family. We are not divided into groups, we are one group," she said.

The season started badly with five consecutive losses. The girls lost to Wagner, John Adams, Richmond Hill, Frank Sinatra, and HS for Construction. The girls' season got a bit brighter when they defeated Aviation on Thurs., Oct. 13. The team then lost to Adams and beat Wagner, before losing their last four matches.

Despite the record, Mr. Boyle said his team was a "coach's dream." He was optimistic and thought the players could have accomplished more and made it to the playoffs because they had a lot of potential. "I received a lot of praise from other school coaches about the girls' improvements and performance," he said.

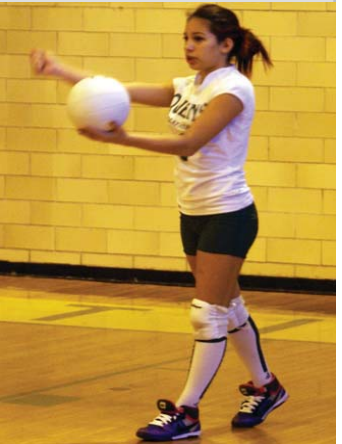
Junior Nabila Parnella said her teammates have good skills

and techniques, though they need improvement on communication. "They need to call for the ball and say 'I got it' or 'got it,' so we can be united and ready at any moment," she explained.

Team members Rachel Ackerman, a sophomore, Zinniah Munoz, a freshman, and Nabila Parnella, a junior, all look forward to compete with John Adams in the future. Adams finished with a 12-0 record. The girls explained that if Queens Voc were to beat Adams it would reflect well on the school team.

At the beginning of the season, junior Christian Flores was appointed captain of the team by Coach Boyle. She's been on the team since her sophomore year. Mr. Boyle said he thinks of her as a responsible and skilled volleyball player. Christian said she gave advice to her teammates and taught them to use their bumps, sets, and spikes efficiently.

There were 14 girls on the volleyball team: freshmen Liliana Fernandez, Zinniah Munoz, and Sandra Riah; sophomores Rachel Ackerman, Thalia Cia, Paola Munoz, Jocelyn Talavera, and Lesly Vivar; juniors Christian Flores, Xiomara Paredes, Nabila Parnella, Sabrina Spiecker, Dayana Zamora, and Nesla Velovic. There were no seniors on the team this year. A good reason, said the coach, to expect a stronger team next year.



Ready to serve.

# Wrestling Team: Another Year, Another Division

by Diony Perez

"This year's wrestling team is looking stronger than ever," said two-year veteran Ricardo Ortega. Last year's season ended 5-5, better than expected considering it was the team's first year in the A division, said Tomas Duarte, a two-year veteran. This season will be the team's fourth year in existence.

To improve, the team members are "trying to recruit as many students as we can for our team," said two-year veteran Julio Sempertegui. "Last year we didn't have certain weight classes that our opponents had, putting us six points behind in each match," he added.

Coach Zambrotta doesn't believe in cutting players. If

PSAL says they're eligible, then they're on the team. If the coach does cut a player or if a player gets injured and there is no replacement, that can result in the team losing six points in a match. The wrestling team wants a successful season, so the team wants wrestlers in each weight classes.

There are many changes this year from last year. "We are in a new division, Queens North. We have been in a new division each year because wrestling is a new sport in New York City high schools and it is still developing," said three-year veteran, Javier Pasarin. Because of that, "the team will have to train harder than ever now," said two-year veteran Jesse Clark. And many rookies

are interested in training hard and getting fit. "I want to stay in shape and being on the wrestling team will help me do this," said freshman Jordan Balcacer.

"Many returning players see a new season as a chance to step up and be a leader," said the coach. Michael Cintron, Tomas Duarte, and Javier Pasarin have stepped up to help run practices, and were recently appointed team captains. Javier, however is currently ineligible because he failed gym last year on his 6th marking period report card.

There are 33 players on the team's roster: Arif Abdul, Alexander Augilar, Juan Alzate, Hamail Arshad, Jordan Balcacer, Alexander Bedova, America Cedamanos,



Captain Tomas Duarte working a pin.

Michael Cintron, Jesse Clark, Francisco Cornier, Nicholas Cornier, Daniel Corona, Emir De La Cruz, Christian Delgado, Quinten Diego, Tomas Duarte, Eudeiri Espinal, Jayson Fernandez, Karla Garcia, Robert Gonzalez, Kenneth Jimenez, Ismael Khalil, Sebastian Lupercio, Eric McPherran, Gabriel Nana, Ricardo Ortega, Juan Prado, Jaime Quizhpi, Nirvaun Singh, Greamy Urena, Andy Urueta, Monica Vega, and Zhefan Zheng.

# What's Required to Join a Team

by Stefanie Sierra

To join a team, students have to fulfill certain requirements. This doesn't depend on whether or not students are good in the sport but if they are technically eligible.

"To start the season on any team students need to have earned eight credits over the past two terms and must have passed physical education in the most recent term," said Mr. Maloney.

Summer school and PM school grades count toward the requirements. There are two main eligibility rules, the 4 + 1 Rule

and the 8 Credit Rule.

"The first report card we check for 80% attendance, that's the minimum students need to remain on the team," said Mr. Maloney.

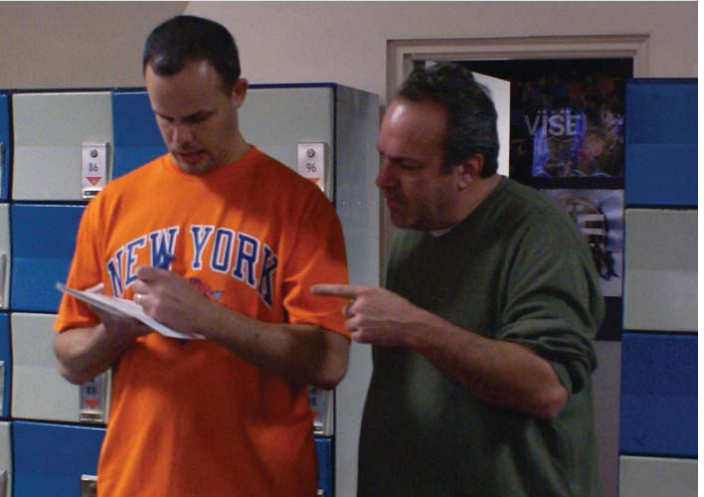
The 4+1 Rule requires students to pass four credit bearing courses, such as English, science, math and social studies. The +1 is physical education, which also must be passed. The 4+1 Rule applies to the January and June report cards, depending upon which season the student is on a team. This also applies to the second and

fifth marking periods.

The 8 Credit Rule requires that students have earned at least eight credits for the previous two seasons. Because Queens Vocational and Technical High school is a CTE school, students are responsible to pass their major, but the major can count toward two of the four passing courses required in the 4+1 Rule and toward the 8 Credit Rule. Transfer students who were on a team in their old school and who want to join a team in the new school, unless the reason for transferring was due to change in residence or a result of a safety transfer. But that is not a guarantee. The

coach would have to apply for and receive a waiver. To join any team, students need to have

submitted an approved medical and parental consent form.



Coach Devaux and AD Maloney reviewing paperwork.





*Alumni and new kids coming together for tryouts.*

## Baseball Starts Early to Set Fresh Tone

**continued from back page**

“There’s always a lot to do to get the team ready for the season,” the coach said. “We’re getting there, but slowly.” Because of the lack of help from the veterans, “The team played no fall scrimmages for the first time in about 10 years.”

The coach made tentative selections for the varsity team earlier than usual “because we need to get our acts together. We need to re-develop the camaraderie we used to have; new players will be part of this. We’ve made the playoffs for the last 10 years, I’m satisfied with that. This year will be a rebuilding year,” the coach said. “I have only one goal for this year: to rebuild our team spirit,” he said. “The veterans will either ‘step up to the plate’ or they will find themselves marginalized,” the coach added.

The players who made the team are: Henry Alvarez, Jordan Balcacer, Bryant Cartagena, Erik Castro, Andy Collado,

Daniel Corona, Alex Cruz, Saul Cruz, Rodolfo Diaz, Daniel Henao, Kevin Hernandez, Max Manticof, Jose Monegro, Radison Moronta, Joan Mulato, Hamza Naseer, Javier Pasarin, Alexander Peña, David Peña, Diony Perez, Jason Perez, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Adonis Rosario, Mario Salcedo, Jesse Santander, Gary Santos, Brandon Taveras, Joseph Taveras, Cristian Trujillo, Greamy Ureña, and Daniel Vargas.



*Jay and Dan racing.*

## Soccer Team : Division Champs Again

**continued from back page**

Senior Jonathan Calderon, a goalie, is ranked 26 citywide in saves (“goal against” average). He has saved 16 goals in 12 matches. Jonathan said that 16 is pretty good, but he doesn’t start most of the time but having only one goal against him makes him feel better. This season, he said went well because “we took first place even though we had to forfeit two games.” Like John, Jonathan had played since freshman year. “We played more as a team, compared to my first year,” he said.

Senior Jonathan Avila was the captain of the soccer

team and his co-captain was sophomore Michael Alvarado. Jonathan too, had been on the boys’ varsity soccer team since freshman year. Teammate Shady Albakry, a senior, said that Jonathan, was a really good captain, and that he “got better each year.” Michael joined the team last year as a freshman and he impressed Everyone,” said Jonathan.

The team is led by Mr. Ali, who has been coaching for nine years. “Ali is a great coach,” said Shady Albakry. “He has a wide knowledge of soccer and is always looking to help improve the team.” But John

Velaquez said Mr. Ali would be even better if he spoke up more and showed authority.

According to psal.org, there are 35 boys on the varsity soccer team: Kevin Alarcon, Shady Albakry, Radfan Ali, Michael Alvarado, Alexiz Alvarez, Gerardo Amigon, Yahirt Artunduaga, Jonathan Avila, Mateo Avila, Bryan Balladares, Mateus Braga, Jonathan Calderon, Jorge Calderon, Luis Campoverde, Mike Flores, Alex Gonzalez, Edwin Guaman, Jhonatan Guaman, Mike Hernandez, Steven Jerez, Erik Juarez, Alexandros Kiourkenidis,

## Big Mo has the Power

by Tina Marie Callanan

Queens Voc has a new athletic director.

On Oct. 18, Mr. Maloney was appointed athletic director to take over from Mr. Lerro, who recently resigned from the position for personal reasons.

Besides being the new AD, Mr. Maloney also coaches the boys’ varsity basketball and varsity handball teams and teaches electrical installation.

“I became athletic director because I believe I am very familiar with all sports and the rules of the game. I have been coaching basketball for 18 years. I have respect for the athletes and the coaches. Sports should be an important part of a student’s high school year. I have the desire and commitment to help improve all the sporting teams at Queens Voc, even if I have to fight for everything that teams need,” Mr. Maloney said. The new athletic director added that

he has been to several games already this year, and he will continue to go to more games in the future. “I feel it is important to show student-athletes the support they deserve when competing against other schools,” Mr. Maloney said.

“Because I became the athletic director after the school year started, it was not as smooth of a transfer as I thought it would have been. I wanted to sit down with all the coaches and talk to them about coaching philosophies,” Mr. Maloney said.

According to Mr. Boyle, “The changing of the athletic director will have a positive influence on the sports program. It will continue with what Mr. Lerro has started. Our proof is numerous division championships as well as city championships. Mr. Maloney has the longest tenure in Queens Voc. He has been a student, SVA, teacher,

coach, and SLC coordinator, which I believe qualifies him to know the needs of the Queens Voc student-athletes.”

Mr. Lerro became AD 10 years ago when Mr. Reichig, who had been the COSA and AD, retired from Queens Voc. “Len Reichig recommended that I apply for the athletic director position in June 2001. I officially started as athletic director in September 2001. He believed that I would do a good job and I certainly hope that I have honored that belief,” Mr. Lerro said.

“Resigning as athletic director was not an easy decision for me,” Mr. Lerro said. “Queens Vocational is my second family, but my home responsibilities are growing and I need to be realistic about time. In addition, after 30 years of teaching, 15 years of coaching, and 10 years as athletic director, this will be a welcome change.”

## Girls’ Bowling Strike Playoffs 7 Years Straight

**continued from back page**

This season, the team played Grover Cleveland and LIC four times each, and Bryant five times.

The girls ended up the 10th seed in the playoffs, with a favorable match-up against Bayside. Coach Garofano was extremely disappointed with the loss. The game went the way it did, he said, because “unfortunately we were missing key players and overall we didn’t bowl very well.” Several of his top bowlers had gone on the SO trip to Philadelphia.

Rookie senior Lucy Ramirez said that the “playoffs were nerve racking. It was a lot of pressure on me. But as time passed, I regained



*Karla lines up the lane.*

my confidence and enjoyed the game.” Lucy wasn’t the only one feeling the pressure. According to Michelle Pineda, also a rookie senior, “It’s a

nervous time when you’re trying to do your best and win. You don’t want to let your team down even more when it’s your first year on the team.”

Coach Garofano said of his seniors, “I’m disappointed that they’re leaving.” The team contained 7 seniors this season.

The team members this year were: Marjan Bakth, Kimani Brown, Kiara Delarosa, Priscilla Delgado, Karla Garcia, Leiry Jaquez, Jacqueline Jimenez, Eliana Moronta, Judy Moy, Maria Perez, Nichole Perez, Michelle Pineda, Monica Puspasari, Lucy Ramirez, Michelle Rojas, Priya Seejoor, Shakirra Smith, and Upasana Tyagi.

Nicholas Kotsakis, Jesus Palao, Washington Pazmino, Juan Prado, Mark Puma, Jose Recinos, Brian Reyes, Andres Romero, Miguel Sierra, Jesus Vargas, John Velasquez, Benji Zamora, and Ajayi Tunner.

There are three juniors, 15 seniors, eight sophomores, and nine freshmen.

Coach Ali said that next year, he’ll need to rebuild his team because “nine of my starters are graduating this year.”



*Coach leads team to out-kick opponents.*





## Baseball Starts Early to Set Fresh Tone

by Fitore Morina

The weather is getting cold and snow will soon cover the ground; it must be time for baseball! Mr. Schimenz, the varsity coach, recently posted tentative picks for the 2012 varsity team. Thirty-one students were initially selected out of the 53 boys who tried-out.

Each of the players was tested on their ability to play baseball. At tryouts, the boys had to show their catching, hitting, throwing, and running skills. Coach Schimenz was also looking at the attitude of each player to see if the boys trying-out fit the chemistry of the team. He said it was as important to him as the effort put into the tryouts. Daniel Corona, a captain in each of the past three years, said that “the tryouts were good, and ran smoothly. It was good to see enthusiastic new players.” Kevin Hernandez, another of last year’s captains, agreed, but thought that the tryouts could

have been longer. “I think the tryouts went well, but I think that we should have had more time to observe the new players who were interested in joining the team, and look at their skills.” About 53 boys tried-out for the team, a smaller than usual number, he said, but he was more concerned that few of them were freshmen. As a part of the tryouts, the non-veterans went to the batting cages one day in early October.

The boys have also been participating in community service activities. They painted lamp-posts during It’s My Park day at Flushing Meadows Park, and helped out at two Halloween-related events. Their big project, as an Action Team—part of Volunteers of America and MLB players Association—has yet to materialize. “A disappointment” that has not set a good tone between the coach and the veterans, he said.

**continued on page 23**

## Girls’ Bowling Strike Playoffs 7 Years Straight

by Marcia Leva

This season the Queens Voc Tigers girls’ bowling team had a rough start, but ended in second place with 8 wins and 4 losses, and a trip to the playoffs. The team lost to Bayside in the playoffs by 4 pins in the A match and 34 in the B match.

In each of the last two seasons the team ended with a 12 and 0 record.

Senior Eliana Moronta was a top bowler, according to Mr. Garofano, the coach.

“Even though we had a rough start, it didn’t stop us from trying our best,” said the second year bowler. Junior Kimani Brown, another top bowler in her second year on the team, looked toward the future. “We have a chance of doing better next season,” she said.

**continued on page 23**



## Boys’ Bowlers Begin Rebuild-

by Eliana Moronta

said Christian Teran.

The Queens Voc boys’ varsity bowling team came in fifth in the Queens II division with a record of 5-7. The boys started their season off on the right foot, defeating Aviation High School on Oct. 4 at the Tigers home alley, AMF 34th Avenue Lanes.

“We had really good bowlers but inconsistency became an issue this year,” said Mr. Devaux, coach of the team. “We never clicked at the same time. We would have a match where we would get a couple of guys bowling really well, but then a couple would have subpar game.”

The “A” team had a high series of 672 against Newtown, Thursday, Oct. 13. Newtown’s “B” team won the B match leading to a decisive match

when the Queens Voc’s boys didn’t “click,” bowling a 551 to Newtown’s 638 series.

The team’s three top bowl-



ers were sophomore Christian Teran, with a 162.50 average; sophomore Angelo Andino, with a 155.42 average; and junior Evan Dunkley, with a 143.13 average.

“It was a good season overall but if we would have given it our all, we would have done major damage in the playoffs,”

The team consisted of 16 players, including six veterans: Angelo Andino, William Callanan, Salvatore Isabella, Paul Paulino, Christopher Perez, and Christian Teran; and ten rookies: Cristian Alcantara, Alex Bermejo, Evan Dunkley, Eudeiri Espinal, Jesus Espinal, Venancio Flores, John Gamble, Jonathan Henry, John Jerez, and Andrew Me-

dina. “I have high expectations for next season,” said Coach Devaux. “My top four bowlers, based on their averages, are returning. By mixing them with some rookies who will practice and get better next year, we will have a very competitive team,” he said.

## Soccer Team : Division Champs Again

by Alexis Crespin

The Queens Voc boys’ varsity soccer team took first place in their Queens B II division, with 11 wins, two losses and one tie, and total of 34 points scored.

This was the third season the boys won their division out of the past four.

Early in the season, Coach Ali believed he had a championship team on his hands. He had said that his team was performing great and he expected them to become division champs again. Assistant coach Raushan said the team was phenomenal. “We crushed competition,” he said.

On Oct. 22, the boys won the Queens B II division, when they defeated High School for Arts and Business, 3-0. Assistant Coach Raushan, in his third year as the assistant coach, said

that “it is a great feeling to be a part of a winning team and program.”

The team’s only losses, against Townsend Harris and Richmond Hill, were initially wins, but the team forfeited the two games because they used an illegal player, Kenny Rios, who wasn’t supposed to play or even be on the roster because he had failed physical education in the sixth marking period last year. The coach took full responsibility. “I admit my mistakes,” Coach Ali said.

John Velaquez, a senior, ranked ninth in the city for the number of goals scored. John scored 18 goals in 10 matches. “It feels like a big accomplishment and a great feeling overall,” he said. John said that this

season is going well because they are winning every game. John, on the team since freshmen year, said this team had more chemistry than in past years.

**continued on page 23**



**Captain Jonathan Avila.**