



Vocational Voice

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

Spring, 2013

by Miguel Garcia

For the second year in a row, Queens Voc's robotics team won the FIRST Robotics Long Island Regional at Hofstra University. The win on April 6 allowed them to advance to the national robotics competition, on April 24-27 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Queens Voc's robotics team first participated in the NYC regionals at Jacob Javits Center, placing 38 out of 63 teams. In the LI regionals, Queens Voc's robotics team and their alliance teams from Hauppauge High School and Westhampton Beach High School won, said Andres Eras, a senior on the robotics build team as well as one of the drivers for the robot.

The robotics team had six weeks to build a robot that could pick up and shoot discs, said Mauricio Rivera, a senior on the robotics team. "We built it so it can shoot the discs accurately, consistently, and hang on to the first level of the pyramid in the last 15 seconds of the match that granted us 10 points," he added.



RoboTigers Victorious

Javits Center results spur team members to redouble their efforts for the LI Regionals.

Queens Voc's robotics team went to Hofstra University April 4, 5, and 6, very determined to win the Long Island regionals so they could go on to the championship at Missouri, said Richard Vega, a

senior in the robotics team's pit crew. They were able to get more organized and more prepared this time around by having more members scouting at potential alliances, said Andres Eras. "We

placed fourth out of 50 teams in qualifications letting us advance onto eliminations, so we chose our alliances carefully which I think helped us win this regional. We looked for consistency in

shooting, how high it could climb the pyramid, and driving speed in the robots," he added. "The building time was short which left a lot of the work to be done at the competition, however we managed to have a good and solid robot as well as incredible drivers," said Mr. Esguerra, the programming mentor of the robotics team. It all came down to the alliances, he added. "The whole team was very happy when we won, everyone was jumping and hugging each other because we were now going to be heading to St. Louis Missouri," said Richard.

A month earlier, the robotics team went to Jacob Javits Center for the NYC regionals from March 7-9. The first day was used to register and for the inspection of the robot, said senior Natanael Feitosa who is also part of the robotics team. "This day was really useful to us because it gave us a chance to see the field and have practice matches to prepare for the following two days for the actual matches," said Jonathon

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Skills USA Competitors Return Triumphantly

Two students take first place medals, set to go to nationals

by Diego Palacios

Skills USA members return home bringing back two first place medals from the Skills USA state competition.

The state competition was held April 24-26 in Syracuse, NY.

Senior Krzysztof Jakubowicz won first place plumbing along with Senior Miguel Garcia who took first place in Residential Systems installation and Maintenance. Both students will travel to Kansas City, Missouri on June 24-28 to compete along with another 5,600 contest

winners from different states in the Championships. Senior Nathanael Feitosa took second place in electronics technology and Arun Rai took third place in Residential systems, installation, and maintenance.

"If you're not first, you're last," said Krzysztof Jakubowicz after his victory.

According to Mr. Cintron 22 students went to Syracuse: Myra Andrews, Gabrielle Butler, Andres Cadavid, Jesse Clark, Heather Clarke, Saul Cruz, Iveth Duran, Natanael Feitosa, Albert Ferrari, Miguel Garcia, Natalie

Guanga, Eileen Herrera, Krzysztof Jakubowicz, Marcin Kochanek, Eamon Mansfield, Edith Mesa, Judy Moy, Andres Ospina, Kimberly Pisfil, Katherine Quindi, Arun Rai, and Adriana Rojas.

"It was very well organized and

everyone acted in a professional manner," said Eamon Mansfield.

"The students performed to the best of their abilities," stated Mr. Rivera who accompanied the students to Syracuse, "they all got along well with the students and

faculty there."

The school paid for some fees, but the students had to contribute, said Mr. Cintron. According to Mr. Cintron, "the school paid \$180 per student for the hotel that they stayed at and \$85 per student for their registration for their competition. The students fundraised money by selling chocolate bars in order to pay their Skills USA dues and their Skills

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Queens Voc students are all smiles after a successful trip to Syracuse.

RoboTigers Victorious



Thalia Cia discusses components of Queens Voc's robot.

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Amon, a senior in the robotics team and one of the drivers of the robot. The second and third day was for qualifying matches and eliminations, he added. "We placed 38 out of 63 teams and didn't get passed the qualification round, but we did get the Gracious Professionalism Award," said Andres Cadavid, a senior on the robotics team. "Whatever could have gone wrong went wrong at Javits," said Mr. Ali, head mentor of the robotics team. As soon as they fixed one part of the robot, another part would go wrong on the next match, one after another, he added.

"Originally our robot was designed to pick up the discs, but after the third match we decided to switch it to be human fed instead because our pick up system didn't work well. Knowing all the

issues that arose, we redesigned our robot so that it performed better at the LI regionals," said Mr. Ali. "Everybody on the team felt depressed and sad that we had not done well, but this gave us an opportunity to improve the flaws that we noticed such as our lack of team organization," said Andres Eras.

The robotics team went on to the national robotics competition at St. Louis, Missouri from April 24-27 said Andres Eras. "Our robot averaged in about 50-60 points per match," said Mr. Ali. They went up against teams that had been around longer than the robotigers and other teams with bigger budgets, which made nationals more competitive, said Mr. Esguerra. "The robotics team placed 47th at the national robotics competition with four wins and four losses," said Mr. Ali.

Skills USA Triumphant Set to go to Nationals

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USA jacket."

Prior to the state competition, a citywide competition was held at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical High School on Saturday, March 9. Nine schools in total competed in different competitions, including 11th and 12th grade cosmetology, computer maintenance, electrical construction wiring, and plumbing.

Iveth Duran took first place in 11th grade cosmetology. Edith who would advance to the state competition.

There was no motor controls competition at the citywide competition and there was only one spot for a student to go to Syracuse for motor controls, yet two students wanted to go, seniors Saul Cruz and Kevin Foronda. Mr. Maloney composed a written electrical test for them. Saul Cruz scored higher than his opponent and went to Syracuse.

According to Mr. Cintron, a Skills USA coordinator, students

have been training in their shop classes to prepare for both competitions. Members have also been attending club meetings where they gain knowledge of what Skills USA is all about. Mesa took first place and Catherine Mosquea placed second in 12th grade cosmetology.

"I had fun because I didn't really think about it as a competition but as a place where I just had to try to give my best," said senior Edith Mesa.

Senior Marcin Kochanek, placed second in computer technology. Senior Andres Ospina took first place in residential wiring. Senior Krzysztof Jakubowicz took first place, Senior Albert Ferrari placed second, and Senior Eamon Mansfield placed third in plumbing.

Because there is a certain limit of how many students can participate in a competition per school, the winning students in the citywide competition determined who would advance to the state competition.

by Crystal Scottborgh

Queens Voc's first ever glee club was founded by Johanna Torres, a senior with a deep interest in singing.

Ms. Rejalaga, an English teacher, offered to advise the club because, she said, she believes Johanna is so motivated, the club will be a success.

"After our first meeting, the kids seem really interested in the success of the club," said Ms. Rejalaga. "We discussed what they would like to work on, and what they would like me to do." About 12 students are in the club.

The future of the glee club is still foggy. "The only plans we have so far is to collaborate with Mr. Zambrotta's music club," said Ms. Rejalaga. The music club plays the melodies and beats on their instruments, while the members of the glee club sing.

"So far, Ms. Rejalaga is a great advisor. To help us out she assigns us 'homework' to help us become more comfortable with our voices," Johanna said. "Ms. Rejalaga is always trying new ways to find out more about our

Glee Club Looks for High Note



The glee club practices singing "Another Brick in the Wall."

voices," said Kenneth.

The first week, the members were assigned to choose a song about growth. They were told to perform it in the next meeting. However, according to Ms. Rejalaga, many students were absent from the following meeting.

Now the club is working on a possible upcoming performance. They will work along with the music club in performing Another

Brick in the Wall by Pink Floyd.

"I really enjoy singing in this group. I feel like I'm starting to become comfortable even though I am really shy when it comes to singing," said Kenneth Jimenez, a senior.

"All students are welcome to join the club," said Ms. Rejalaga.

The club meets every Friday, after school from 4:30-5:30 in either room 111 or the auditorium.

Cisco Networking Certification added as C-Tech Option

by Raymond Xue

Next year in Queens Voc, there will be a new program called Cisco Networking for C-Tech. "Cisco Networking teaches students the fundamentals of networking with the goal of certifying the students with a certification next year," said Mr. Rodriguez.

The C-Tech teachers decided to implement this program because it is "rigorous, covers state standards, offers programs that kids want to pursue and it has lots of opportunities for employment," said Mr. Rodriguez. According to Mr. Rodriguez, Cisco's goal is to hire students from vocational schools.

C-Tech students who choose Cisco will not automatically get into the program. Their English and Math Regents will be reviewed because the program requires a lot of reading comprehension and math.

Mr. David and Ms. Zagada will be teaching Cisco. Mr Ali will be the AP in charge of this program.

According To Ms. Zagada, the students can be certified in CCENT (Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician), which can lead to another certification CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate).

The CCENT certification allows students to configure small routers, repair and troubleshoot

small routers and network problems.

The CCNA certification, Ms. Zagada said, "is a more advanced certification that allows students to configure large routers, repair and troubleshoot large routers and network issues." In order to get a CCNA certification in Queens Voc, the student must earn a CCENT certification.

"Cisco is more in-depth with networking, configuring routers, and troubleshooting, while A+ is more about troubleshooting hardware and software for computers and printers," Ms. Zagada said. A+ students are taught just the fundamentals of networking.

Suveer Seemangal Elected FBLA State VP at Rochester Conference

by Chi Lung Hsu

Suveer Seemangal was elected FBLA state vice president of District 2, which includes all New York City FBLA teams. It is a very prestigious position, said Ms. Mitchell, a position she is sure he will excel in.

Suveer, a junior, will have to organize events, coordinate District 2 meetings in the fall and spring, and attend the January joint meeting held in Rochester in the spring of 2014, Ms. Mitchell said.

Suveer was elected during the FBLA annual leadership conference, which took place

April 9-12.

Queens Vocs FBLA went up state to Rochester, New York, for an annual leadership conference. Suveer was one of the seven Queens Voc students who went to the conference along with Ms. Mitchell, their advisor.

According to Ms. Mitchell, Queens Voc's FBLA team won the Picture Perfect award, a contest in which students profile their daily life in the FBLA in picture form.

Melissa Espinosa won fourth place in spreadsheet applications, a competition that tests students in their Microsoft Excel skills.

Even the advisor, Ms. Mitchell, received an award. Ms. Mitchell

was recognized for her work with the FBLA state leadership during the 2012-2013 school year. Last year, she worked with FBLA officers from all FBLA Districts within New York State.

Kevin Segura, a FBLA member who went to Rochester said, "It was a very interesting experience, I got to meet a lot of new people. The activities were very intricate but fun, and we were also able to bond with our team members."

FBLA will conclude its activities with a year-end dinner on Friday, May 17 at Georgia Diner to celebrate the dedication of the members and their achievements, Ms. Mitchell said.

R=AIN Prepares for AIDS Walk

by Kimani Brown

Queens Voc's R=AIN teamed up during April and May with Aviation High School's Gay-Straight Alliance for several activities.

Aviation's GSA President, Alex Corona, contacted Queens Voc SAPIs counselor, Ms. Kurnitz, after reading a previous edition Queens Voc's school newspaper online. Aviation's GSA wanted to participate in the AIDS Walk but didn't know how to go about it.

"Queens Voc and Aviation have never really had an amiable relationship so it was a positive way to make our relationship stronger and bring students together," said Ms. Kurnitz.

"We are already registered as a team for the AIDS Walk on May 19 in Central Park, and students and staff can now sign up to participate in the walk in room 151C or join the Queens Voc R=AIN team at aidswalk.net," said, Ms. Kurnitz.

On April 10, Aviation's GSA visited Queens Voc's R=AIN during one of their meetings and a guest speaker from the nonprofit organization Live Out Loud came as well.

"We learned how to educate others more and feel comfortable around our friends and family and not be so afraid to come out about our sexuality," said Vasiki Konneh, a freshman member of R=AIN.

"At the meeting we also started to make the jewelry for the sale and it turned out to be really fun and a nice environment since we had other people at the meeting," said Sally Santiago, another freshman.

Other activities planned together include a trip to the Jewish Heritage Museum on May 21.

R=AIN recently had their annual handmade jewelry and bake sale. The jewelry prices ranged from 50 cents to \$20. They raised \$640. All of the money will be donated to the AIDS Walk.

"Before the school year is over we are also going to plan a ceremony to install the plaque in remembrance of R=AIN member Steffi Garcia, once Mr. Alikakos finds a secure place to put it," said Ms. Kurnitz.



First and second place bachata dance competitors.

Seniors Experience Las Vegas

by Dorothy Bailey

The Senior Class Luncheon was held on Thursday, April 11, at Bruno's on the Boulevard, from 12pm to 4pm. "It was a fun, memorable experience," said Priya Seejoor. Other seniors agreed. Natalie Guanga said, "It was a great opportunity to have fun and relieve stress." Melanie Acevedo summed up why. "There was great food and music," she said.

Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, organized the luncheon. He said that 116 seniors attended the event. "The luncheon was a success. It was very fun. I received a good response from the seniors," said Mr. Vega. The senior leadership students and the senior class officers decorated for the luncheon. Sausage and peppers, salad, beef, chicken, rice, fish, and salad dishes were served.

In the best-dressed contest, Marilynn Bonilla placed first, Jenelle Perucci placed second, and Edith Mesa placed third.

At the luncheon, many students participated in salsa, meringue, and bachata contests. "These contests are a part of the Queens Voc tradition," said Mr. Vega. The first and second place winners earned a 50 percent discount off the price of their prom tickets.

Crystal Scottborgh and Henry Alvarez came in first place in the

merengue contest, and Marilynn Bonilla and Milton Mendez placed second.

Luz Nunez and Bryant Romero came in first place, and Nichole Alvarez and Cristian Trujillo came in second in the salsa contest. "The salsa contest was fun. Cristian is the only boy in Queens Voc who knows how to dance salsa," said Nichole.

In the bachata contest, Denisse Carbo and Diony Trejo came in first place, and Nichole Alvarez and Andy Collado came in second. "The bachata contest was fun. 'My partner was very good. We moved as one,'" said Nichole. Denisse said, "I'm happy that I won. Everybody danced well."

Students played Texas Hold'em, Blackjack, and poker (with fake money). The tables and games were set up to resemble the Vegas theme. "The kids had a lot of fun. They played in a literal sense," said Mr. Devaux.

The leadership students surveyed 162 seniors to pick the theme. In the survey, the theme choices were: Black and White, Hawaiian, Nerd, Vegas Night, and Hippies. Vegas night won, and so students were expected to come dressed in Vegas-styled outfits.

The tickets went on sale on March 4, and cost \$30 each. The deadline to buy tickets was originally March 20, but was extended to April 5.



Seniors look spiffy in their Vegas-themed attire.

Cheyenne Traill wins Hairbraiding Contest

by Khiran Samsundar

Cheyenne Traill, Clariza Tejada, and Genisis Fernandez took the top three spots in the freshman hair braiding contest that took place during the spring parent-teacher conferences.

The contest, coordinated by Ms. Lingstuy, was held in room 306 on Thursday, March 14 and Friday, March 15. The entries were judged by a panel of parents, staff, and students.

After the judges selected the top hairstyles, the votes were tallied to determine the top three from each of Ms. Lingstuy's ninth grade cosmo classes. A tie in one class led seven semifinalists. Their manikins were taken to the main office, where faculty members voted to select the top three finalists.

The other semifinalists were Serenity Gonzalez, Keyli Rodriguez, Valery Roldan, and Xi Zheng.

Genisis, whose work came in third place, said, "During the contest I felt relaxed, and when

I found out that I got third place I was proud of myself. I think I could have improved the braid. It could have been more tight and neat."

Ms. Lingstuy was happy with the results. "The contest was an excellent opportunity for students to challenge themselves. Students used their creative skills to combine braiding techniques," she said. "Excitement built as they went along. Many of them said they were nervous in the beginning, but the desire to compete with their fellow classmates was a real incentive. By the end of the event they were all happy they had participated," she said.

The seven semi-finalists received an arrangement of gift such as make-up bags and kits, professional brushes, stuffed animals, designer handbags, and other cosmetology goodies, said Ms. Lingstuy.

The top three finalists also received a certificate from the school. The gifts were a combination of donations and purchases made by Ms. Lingstuy.



Semifinalist manikins await judges' decision.

Students go to Citi Field

by Lexi Ambrus

On Thursday April 25, Mr. Daniel and several other chaperones took the perfect attendance students to a college fair and a Mets game at Citi Field.

From 147 students who achieved the perfect attendance, only 96 of them went to the game. "The trip went very well," said Mr. Daniel. Ms. Baez said she "will definitely go again next year, even though the Mets lost 3-1."

The college fair began at 10:30am. There was a presentation by a representative from CUNY who spoke to the students about the importance of college. After the presentation, the students were able to go down to the field and visit the booths from a variety of

colleges.

"It was fun" said sophomore, Gissell Fernandez, "we got to sit in the front while the speakers were speaking, and then we went back to our normal seats to watch the game. It was a perfect day to go to a ball game."

Aline Torres said "the \$5 I paid was worth it, we had a great time. I'm glad students like us are rewarded for our achievements. I will try again to make the perfect attendance list again next year."

Vita Giuffrida said she was excited to go. "It was a great experience, I had a great time. It gave us a different a different look on sports and college and how they can link," she said, adding "I can't wait to go to another Mets game!"

Talent Show Goes into Overtime!

by Laura Duarte

This year's talent show went through a bumpy journey with five of 19 acts dropping from the show but Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, decided to push ahead with the acts that were committed and had the show on Thursday, March 21, at 5pm.

"I didn't want to take away from the students who did work hard. Unfortunately some acts couldn't rehearse enough to stay in the show, but I understand that they didn't want to slack in school," said Mr. Vega.

Devonte Rosero, from Magicians Without Borders, opened the talent show this year to lengthen the show. He performed magic tricks, incorporating students from the audience to help. Sebastian Bonilla, a senior, was one of the students who went on stage, "I had fun. It made me want to get into magic."

Senior Darius Peters, who goes by the stage name Ais Rep, was the first act on stage. He rapped to his original lyrics called, "Come Ride with Me." Darius said he, "was nervous but cool with it," when he found out he was going to be the first act to perform.

Kenneth Jimenez and Sthephane Duran danced to dubstep/electronic music. Within the act Sthephane did a solo in which she belly-danced. Although they were first-time performers, Kenneth and Sthephane had the

crowd out of their seats. "I told people to come to the front of the stage and jump," said Kenneth.

"Lost and Found," performed next. The act was composed of Raymond Gomez, who performed "Stuck and Glued" by Secret Band, Alejandro Carrion, and Isaac Morales. They afterwards performed a post hardcore/screamo version of "In the End" by Linkin Park.

Veteran talent show performer Nabila Parnella sang Usher's "Climax." "She did good, I just felt like she was nervous," said onlooker Nicholas Cornier.

Kenneth Jimenez performed

Balcacer danced to old school and new school music while battling each other. Frank Cornier back-flipped off the stage to end the act. "I don't want to sound conceited but my act was the climax of the show from what I heard," said Elliot of his and the crew's performance.

Alejandro Carrion, Isaac Morales, and Anthony Benitez performed "Give me Love" by Ed Sheeran and had the audience swaying to the music. The act finished when Alejandro threw his fedora to the adoring fans.

David McCullough took the stage as Matt Kafka and performed



Darius Peters opens the show and raps his original song.

again, as Eli, on the piano to "A River Flows in You" by Yiruma. After Kenneth's performance, Mr. Vega called for an intermission.

"A Blast from the Past" started the second half of the show. Elliot Ortiz, Jose Moncion, and Jordan

his part as an upcoming rapper. He sang two of his original songs, "Do you feel my Pain, IDK" and "Inspector Swagger." "I felt like I got the chance to show my true potential."

The Master of Custodial Arts,



Jessica Pichardo sings "Stay" by Rihanna.

Andrew Vallerio, played the part as a janitor who dances as soon as students have left the school. "I wanted to create the illusion of a hard worker who finds his way through dance," said Andrew. His free-style dancing showed the audience how much passion this janitor has.

The only freshman in the show, Jessica Pichardo, sang "Stay" by Rihanna. "I was always really shy. I thought this year it was time to break out of my shell," said Jessica.

Luz Nunez danced to salsa music with her brother Sael, a freshman from Civic Leadership Academy. They were so committed to the act, that not even when Sael's shoe flew off the stage did they stop dancing.

The closing act was Joseph Peterson playing an instrumental drum cover to "Smells like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana, and then jammed solo. He played for about 12 and a half minutes, continuing to play even after losing one of his

sticks during the performance.

Originally, Mr. Vega said that the show would be from 5-7pm, but the talent show ended around 8:30pm. "I was happy with the show despite the acts dropping out," said Mr. Vega. He said that the remaining acts gave it their all and stepped up their game during show time.

Next year's talent show auditions will be different, according to Mr. Vega. Instead of acts auditioning for only a minute, the required length will be three minutes. To get in the talent show this year, auditioning acts only needed to be a minute, but to stay in, acts had to be at least three minutes long.

"That's what happened, students auditioned and got in with a minute, but didn't rehearse," said Vega about the talent show this year. With these new requirements for next year he hopes to prevent acts from dropping out because their acts are not long enough to stay in the show.

Seniors Prepare for the Work Force

By Andres Cadavid

Senior Electrical Installation students and Pre-Engineering students are participating in the Scholars at Work Career Exploration Program operated by Workforce 1, Industrial and Transportation Career Center in Jamaica Queens.

The work readiness program helps students learn from experts how to self-analyze, write a resume, prepare for an interview, and give a 30-second pitch. Participants also hear from people in the industry.

According to AP Newman, who coordinates the program at Queens Voc, 15 volunteers from Workforce 1 and NYC Small Business Services came to work with groups of students on Thursday, May 2, in a workshop on interview skills and first impressions.

The program will culminate in students interviewing for real jobs in June at Workforce 1. This job

interview can lead to careers or for students while they are in college.

The students heard from Mr. Christian Polanco, owner of Perfect touch Management Group and Construction Management. He explained to the students that an 18-hour work day and 4 hours of sleep is the norm. He said that it is a cut-throat business and "you have to stay on top of it to be successful." Mr. Polanco

emphasized that those who want to be successful need perseverance and should be willing to sacrifice to get ahead.

Queens Voc has Scholars at Work interns who went through the work readiness program in the fall at Workforce 1 and are currently placed on paid internships for the spring. Ms. Newman said they will be honored at graduation in June.



Students peer review their resumes.



Students get interview tips from Workforce 1 representative.

by Luz Nunez

The senior prom will be held on Friday, May 31, at Terrace on the Park, from 8pm to 1am. Tickets are being sold in room 143 for \$125. Because of the spring senior food festival, the first 125 tickets were sold for \$105.

Measurements for cap and gown were taken in room 143 during lunch periods. Graduates who paid their dues will receive four tickets to the ceremony. Graduation will be held in Queens College Golden Auditorium, on Monday, June 24 at 7:30pm.

Last Minute Senior News

AP Software to be a C-Tech Option

by Chi lung Hsu

Next year, students in C-Tech will have more options toward their career choices. Two certifications are being introduced in the C-Tech curriculum.

One new certification Advanced Placement software certification. Cisco networking is the other certification being added next year. [See article on page 2.]

According to Ms. Zagada, who went for training in March, software engineering is a four-year CTE endorsement. However, because of our schedule, it will only be a one year program for the juniors who choose it in C-Tech.

Queens Voc was chosen out of 200 schools in the city that applied for this program.

This program aims to improve students' interest in computer and engineering across the five boroughs and to incorporate more advanced technology into Queens Voc classrooms.

According to Mr. Yu, who also went for training, the topic of software engineering covers a variety of subjects such as computer programming, web design and programming, robotics, graphic design, mobile computing, embedded electronics, and other core topic areas.

The class will cover animation, digital fabrication, Scratch, Python, HTML/CSS, Javascript, C++, and Lego Mindstorms.

Students will be CTE certified at the end of the course if they pass the AP exam.

Ms. Zagada said she thinks the program is very entertaining and informative. Mr. Yu agreed. "This program is interesting. I was exposed to different types of programming at the training and I think that students will enjoy their experience with programming," he said.

Because it is a new program for the school, not much more is known. More information about this new certification will be provided in the future, said Ms. Zagada.

"I think that if there was a program like this when I was in the 10th grade, I would have definitely chosen it. It is good now that the kids in C-Tech gets to choose what path they want," said senior Gino Guerra.



Students raised hundreds of dollars to fight birth defects.

QV Marches on

by Judy Moy

Twenty Queens Voc participated in the March of Dimes Walk on Sunday, April 28.

Queens Voc participants raised \$664 from sponsors, approximately the same amount as last year's walk. Queens Voc also received additional \$100 through donation cards.

Leiry Jaquez, a senior, said that the walk was enjoyable. "It's an amazing charity and really good cause. The weather was nice and overall really fun."

The March of Dimes "March for Babies" is an annual walk that takes place nationwide, to support medical research to prevent birth defects, premature births, and infant mortality. According to marchofdimes.com, 23 million babies worldwide are born premature or with birth defects.

Mr. Vega, COSA, together with the leadership class, organized the March of Dimes walk in Queens Voc. All students were welcome

to sign up in Room 143 until Wednesday, April 24. Mr. Vega said participants were encouraged to raise up to a goal of \$50 each.

This year, participants began the walk at 10am, starting at West 65th Street and Broadway and finishing on Madison Avenue and 26th Street at 12pm; walking a total of three miles.

Mr. Vega tries to make this walk happen every year. "One of my leadership classes was interested in doing the walk and we looked into it and decided to make it an event that we would try to participate in every year."

Those participating this year are Ashley Arango, Amin Al-Sayed, Melanie Bastardo, Federico Castillo, Jeanette Espinal, Romana Hossain, Leiry Jaquez, Amira Khamis, Daisy Maldonado, Natalie Martinez, Seida Muratovic, Victoria Noel, Fatima Osman, Marlen Rameriz, Sonia Sanchez, Crystal Scottborgh, Sabrina Spiecker, Marju Sotto, Johanna Torres, and Diony Trejo.



Parents Take English, too

by Dorothy Bailey

Every Saturday in room 351, Ms. Nierer teaches English-Second-Language classes to the parents of Queens Voc students. The classes started on March 2, and will end on May 18. One class runs from 8:30 to 11am, and the another runs from 11:30 to 2pm. An average of twenty parents attend ESL classes each week.

According to Ms. Nierer, the ESL classes help parents learn English, and to communicate with the school or at jobs.

"The curriculum includes identification of words, sentence building, phonics, and pronunciation," said Ms. Nierer.

"While in the class, parents have developed a better understanding of how to speak and write English sentences," said Ms. Nierer.

"It's a great experience for me. Students don't always appreciate school, but their parents do. I love exploring, comparing, and contrasting different cultures, religions, and languages," said Ms. Nierer.

Books Being Tagged

by Khiran Samsundar

Next year, book receipts may be a thing of the past!

"The Destiny Program," being implemented at Queens Voc, will allow textbooks to be signed out with students' ID cards, which will have a bar code added to the back.

The program will also allow the

Thousands of Books Donated for Schools in Africa

by Natanael Feitosa

Ms. Lewis, the school librarian, led Queens Voc's recent donation of thousands of books to schools in Africa.

Almost all of the more than 4,000 books came from the school library. Ms. Lewis said that approximately 100 of the books were from students and teachers. The books were donated to an organization called Books4cause. "I heard about the organization through the internet," she said.

Ms. Lewis said she "donated the books so struggling libraries in African could put the books to good use, rather than destroying them."

Ms. Lewis said that she is required to keep all the books in the library current. Many of the old books, which haven't been taken out in decades, "might not be interesting for young readers in our school," she said. Ms. Lewis said that the old books have references that do not relate to the students today.

A worker from Books4cause came to Queens Voc on March 1 to

pick up boxes full of the donated books. The books were ready to go, Ms. Lewis said, because "my book club students help pack all the books into boxes."

"Yankee," an employee from the organization, said that the books will be sorted to see which books can be sent to Africa and which ones can't. He said after the books are sorted, they are put into a container and sent to one of the Books4cause branch organizations in Africa. Once the books arrive in Africa, they are distributed to various libraries and school in Africa. Books that do not go to Africa go to Chicago, where they are sold. The profit from the books that are sold are donated to help libraries and schools in Africa.

Books4cause is an organization that gives books and money to schools and libraries in areas where there are underprivileged people with no access to books. The organization was started in 2009 by Yosef Lifchitz. According to their website, Books4cause.com, they have over 20 libraries in Africa.



One of many book rooms.

school to have an accurate count on the textbooks available and what books have been assigned to students.

Ms. Sameyah, a math teacher, has taken on the role of implementing the program. Every textbook will need a barcode.

Ms. Sameyah found out about "The Destiny program" at the end of the previous school year. The program was purchased this fall. During the summer, all of the textbook will be input into the database.

There are boxes of books that are taking up space in classrooms and aren't being used, the school will be having a company coming in on May 10 to recycle all of the unused books throughout the building, to make room for new books.

"I hate book receipts, they are messy and make no sense" said Ms. Sameyah.

Ideally once the books are in the system, everyday for the first few weeks of school, the classroom teacher will distribute textbooks to their students and someone will be going around with a laptop and a barcode scanner to assign each student a book.

If you return the wrong textbook you will be liable for that book you took out. If you are not able to return that book you will have to pay the fine associated with it, Ms. Sameyah stated.

"I feel it is great because we have so many things, the system keeps an accurate inventory, which helps teachers in identifying what resources are available," Mr. Alikakos said.

Fire Causes Evacuation



Garbage pail melted completely in guidance suite fire.

by Raymond Gomez

A fire in the guidance office suite forced a school-wide evacuation on Thursday, Feb. 14 at 4pm. The fire was started by a student, whose name cannot be disclosed, who threw a lit match into a plastic recycling pail, which melted, causing noxious smoke to spread throughout the building.

Mr. Garofano, one of the deans said, the smell of smoke and the adults in the guidance suite initially alerted people of the fire.

To evacuate the building, Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal, announced that there would be a fire drill. Afterwards, he cancelled all after-school activities. “I needed to make sure there was no fire in the walls, it would take a

long time. I wanted the students to get home safely if there was,” he said.

“It was a small fire and was put out with a fire extinguisher,” said Mr. McCarthy. Although Mr. McCarthy was responsible for extinguishing the fire, Mr. Vega, AP Ali, and Mr. Gallagher helped in doing so.

About an hour later the fire department gave the signal for students to retrieve their belongings from inside the school when the smoke cleared, said Mr. Alikakos. Minor damage was done in the guidance suite.

Mr. Garofano said the student responsible, whose name cannot be disclosed, faced disciplinary charges. Mr. Alikakos said he also suspended the student. The

student was later arrested.

There was a second fire, on a later date, outside of room 152 between fifth and sixth period. This time two students set fire to a bulletin board poster about tolerance and diversity. The two students were also suspended.

A freshman student returned from the bathroom to Mr. Samuelson’s English class. Mr. Samuelson said the student noticed the fire and immediately told him, “Hey Mr. Samuelson, there’s a fire,” while motioning his head to the door. Mr. Samuelson said he asked the boy to repeat himself before realizing what he had said. Mr. Samuelson said that he walked into the hall, faced the board on his right, and saw the poster going up in flames.

“What is an English teacher to do?” Mr. Samueleson said. “I’m faced with a potential arsonist. They don’t teach you this in school. Do I call the deans? Do I look at the flames and become mesmerized? Or should I yell fire to security and cause a panic? I was faced with a decision. This was what I had prepared for all my life. I had always wanted to be a fireman.”

Mr. Samuelson said he executed a flawless frontal kick. “Up, pop! In a quarter of a second the problem was taken out. I snuffed out that conflagration in one swift kick. I wanted to bask in my heroism. I stared at the smoldering remains before turning my head to the right, put a V sign with my hands for victory at security to let them know everything was all right.”

Breakdancing Club

by Marilyn Bonilla

The breakdancing club started off with 13 members in February, but since then, the club has dropped to two members.

Michael Feliz, a junior who started the club, said, “We started out with 13 members but as time progressed, students stopped showing up and have dropped out of the club. I understand that I have some fault because I had promised to put up flyers and promote the club, but I haven’t had the time to. Once I become available again, I want to put up flyers and invite more people to the club,” he said.

The club is advised by Ms. Ridge and Mr. Daniel and meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30pm to 6pm.

Emanuel Taveraz is one of the two members still committed to the club. “I still attend the meetings even though others don’t go because it gives me a good chance to practice dancing with Michael. I’ve always enjoyed dancing, so this is a good chance to do what I’ve always wanted. I understand the guys have been slacking off, but that’s their decision not to go, I’m still pleased just being with Michael practicing dance moves,” said Emmanuel.

“I was one of the founders of the club; I assisted Michael with putting it together. Initially, I thought the club would have members that don’t know how to dance and were willing to learn. However, the members knew how to dance. Michael was doing well running the club, so I stopped assisting. I also stopped going because members were dropping out, and that doesn’t motivate me to go,” said Elliot Ortiz.

“I agreed to take on advising the club because I believe in helping the students pursue their interest and goals with something their passionate to,” said Mr. Daniel, “I’m from the disco ages so it’s interesting to see the moves they do and it’s something I can learn from,” he said. Mr. Daniel believes that Michael is a good leader; he is willing to share his time and teach the members in the club what he knows. “This club is starting small but I believe Michael and this club have great potential to take off and improve,” he said.

“I have only met once with the club because of scheduling difficulties. However, the time I was there, it was enjoyable to watch the students dance and work well together,” said Ms. Ridge.

Michael said that when he was in middle school he would go to Queens Voc to the breakdancing club, back when there was one. “I loved going to Queens Voc after school for the club, it was so much fun and everyone was friendly. After the advisor left and the members of the club graduated, the club died out. So while I attended the school, it was gone and I’m willing to bring it back,” he said.

Yearbook Ready Distribution Being Planned

by Mellisa Espinosa

Queens Voc’s 2013 yearbook is at the printers, according to Ms. DeCarlo, the yearbook committee advisor. The yearbook committee finished the last pages of the yearbook on April 29, she said.

According to Ms. DeCarlo, when the yearbooks are printed they will be delivered to the school. Since it takes so long to print the yearbook, the prom and graduation cannot be included.



Smiles for a job well-done.

Yessenia Bautista, a member of the committee, says that one of the biggest challenges to completing of the yearbook was getting the pictures from the clubs and activities. “I was hoping to avoid some of this struggle with the use of replayit.com, which allows everyone to upload pictures, but it was not very successful with the teachers,” said Ms. DeCarlo.

According to Ms. DeCarlo this year’s yearbook will have 96 pages. The events with the biggest senior turnouts get more pages. Events such as Oscar Night, senior luncheon, and senior trip got four pages each in the yearbook.

Yessenia hopes that the seniors are pleased with the yearbook and that every senior appears in the book at least once. Ruth Galarza, another member of the committee, hopes to see all the seniors happy and appreciative for the hard work of the yearbook committee.

Ms. DeCarlo said that she does not know when the books will be delivered, but she hopes that they will be delivered before Regents week.



Artwork by Adonis Rosario and Shaikh Tonmoy to be displayed in Manhattan.

Students Win Art Competition

by Raymond Xue

Artwork by Shaikh Tonmoy and Adonis Rosario was selected for an exhibition, titled “Constructing the City,” which will be on display at Centerview Partners, a leading independent investment banking and advisory firm.

Their work was selected from among hundreds of student entries, according to Ms. Volpe, their art teacher.

Their artwork will be framed and displayed for two

years. Shaikh and Adonis will be recognized at an art show on Tuesday, May 14, from 5-6:30 pm. Food and refreshments will be served.

Ms. Volpe said she “chose the two students’ artwork because I thought it was worthy for the top pick.”

“Our project was to draw a cartoon,” Adonis said. He said he drew a picture of himself with cities around him because he was dressed like a business man. Adonis was delighted.

“I felt proud that my work was chosen and that hard work pays off,” he said.

Shaikh Tonmoy enjoys art, yet “art is something that I would not like to pursue in the future,” said Shaikh.

The two Queens Voc students will each get a \$100 gift certificate from either Pearl Paint or B&H photo. The choice is theirs.

Their artwork will be displayed at Centerview Partners, located at 31 West 52nd Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10019.

Queens Voc Celebrates Black History Month

by Ashley DeMoss

In February, Queens Voc celebrates Black History Month. Black History Month is when African Americans are acknowledged for their achievements and positive impact on history. For the past 10 years, Ms. Himmel, a teacher who is the host of the event, has been creating Black History Month activities for the students and staff to participate in. “It gives students a chance to celebrate diversity,” she said.

Ms. Himmel is a veteran English teacher at Queens Voc. She also runs the Poetry Month events. “Being a teacher was tradition in my family. My parents were teachers and they encouraged me to become one as well,” she said.

Ms. Himmel said she took the role of being the Black History Month coordinator because she wanted to show that African

Americans have contributed to society as much as others and to prove people wrong about their misconceptions and stereotypes of them.

“I hope the students have some kind of appreciation for what African Americans have done to contribute to society, and I hope my continuing of the tradition has a positive effect on the students and staff,” Ms. Himmel said.

At the beginning of every week in February, clues are announced by students or faculty over the public address system and, students to submit their answers in the library for a chance to win awards. The topic ideas vary from inventors, leaders, and others. “This year President Obama’s re-election was the inspiration for our trivia,” said Ms. Himmel.

According to Ms. Himmel, the staff who participated in announcing the clues were Mr. Alikakos, Ms. Baez-Medina, Ms.

Burg, Ms. Carpino, Mr. Daniel, Ms. Gonzalo, Ms. Lewis, Mr. MacDonald, and Mr. Schimenz. The students who announced the clues were Pamela Abreu, Phillip Gooding, Eamon Mansfield, Jared McCloud, and Stephanie Rojas.

Out of almost 1,500 students in Queens Voc, there were 19 who participated in the Black History Month event. “I try to encourage as many students as possible but some students don’t seem to be interested,” Ms. Himmel said.

The students who won prizes during the weeks are Jenny Aucaquizhpi, Arif Abdul, Marjan Bakth, Stephanie Duran, Jessika Guerrero, Mohammed Hossain, Fatima Osman, Udayan Puthenkalam, Katherine Quindi, Jordalys Quintero, Marlen Ramirez, Joanna Rocano, Jessica Rosales, Cindy Saba, Sonia Sanchez, Marju Sotto, Upasana Tyagi, Nesta Velovic, and Erika Zumba.



Crystal, Nathaniel, and Denisse are all aglow.

Seniors Glow at the Glow Out

by Fatima Osman

There might have been some controversy, but judging by the seniors’ reactions, Glow Out was a huge success.

“We had most of the seniors turn out,” said Ms. DeCarlo, “over 180 seniors came together as a group, danced the night away, had dinner and refreshments, painted their shirts as souvenirs, and were part of the yearbook group photo, all for \$3.”

“The glow out was a VIP senior event. It was a time when seniors got to celebrate together as a class. The black lights and glow paint helped make it a unique senior event,” said Ms. DeCarlo.

Glow out was held in the cafeteria on Friday, Feb. 22, from 5pm to 8:30pm. Pizza, lemonade, and water were served.

“It’s something nice and fun,” said Senior Vanessa Illera, “and other than being a tradition, it’s also a good opportunity to be together as a class. I thought that it was a success because everything that was promised was given. I had fun; I enjoyed dancing and spending time with my friends,” she said.

But not everyone was happy. “I didn’t really enjoy myself at glow out but being with my friends made it a bit better,” said senior Kenneth Jimenez. Kenneth did say that “the scenery was unforgettable; I loved it.”

Some seniors complained about the music at Glow Out. But Ms. DeCarlo was clear: “When we first started glow out a few years ago, we didn’t even have music,” she said. “The D.J. volunteered his own time on a Friday night, without getting paid, to try and make the event more enjoyable,” she said. “There are many different musical tastes and you can’t please everyone,” added Ms. DeCarlo. Kenneth wasn’t so happy with the musical selections. “In the beginning of glow out, the

music was enjoyable. After that, I didn’t enjoy the music because most people including myself when we think of glow in the dark theme parties, we think of techno music.” But Vanessa said she thought that the music was all right. “Obviously, we had to take into consideration that the DJ was a teenager. The music could have been better but a good amount of people still had fun.

Besides the music, some seniors complained about the paint. “I’m not sure if paint will be included as part of next year’s glow out,” said Ms. DeCarlo. Vanessa said, “If the paint wasn’t really washable then they should have told us the truth because then people would have come in dressed differently. The paint was fun and nice but very messy.” Ms. DeCarlo said, “I feel terrible that some people got their clothing ruined. I am not sure how that happened. All of the paint that I purchased washes off with soap and water, according to the label. I don’t know if people brought their own paint or if somebody got into my old paint supply from last year’s glow out.”

Ms. DeCarlo said, “The yearbook club and staff members and other students worked tremendously hard to put together the event. It can be so frustrating to work so hard and receive so much negative feedback.”

“We had a great group photo,” said Ms. DeCarlo. “I was nervous because we had never taken the picture in the gym before and I wasn’t sure how it would come out. Even though it was a time consuming process to get the students in the shape of 2013, we made it happen.”

Ms. DeCarlo thanked “the staff members who helped make the night a success including Mr. Ali, Ms. Gonzales, Ms. Green, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Sartori, Mr. Schimenz, Ms. Rejalaga and Mr. Vega.”

Music Club & Glee Club Plan Concert

by Raymond Gomez

The music club began earlier this spring. Mr. Zambrotta, music club coordinator, and the students in music club meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30pm-6:30pm in the auditorium. “We plan to have a performance in late May, early June,” said Mr. Zambrotta.

Music club recently starting meeting up on Fridays to help do live music for Glee club, which is coordinated by Ms. Rejalaga. “Our goal is to get both clubs to work cohesively,” he said.

He said the music club had difficulties in early spring because talent show rehearsals used up space for music club rehearsals. After the talent show, the music club quickly started using the auditorium for practice.

Students in music club learn how to play music, or practice what they already know. “It doesn’t matter what kind of music they play as long as it sounds tight, it’s all good,” Mr. Zambrotta said. He said he does anything he can to help students with music such as playing guitar, bass drums, assisting and organizing bands, work one on one with a student, and help groups by giving them music books. He also said he can help with recording although students haven’t asked him about this kind of help.



Mr. Zambrotta & student-musicians tune up before practice.

Students can join music club if they are interested in learning more about music, have a good attitude, and are willing to practice and learn by yourself, he said. “My ultimate goal is that I don’t want kids to have a bad musical experience. I want to help students succeed to the best of my ability,” he said, adding, “Anyone can join, however as I discussed with Principal Burg, why should students participate in an extracurricular club if they are failing, like with PSAL sports? I understand students may use music/ art as an outlet but they need to get to the point where it’s their job and that isn’t until after high school.”

The biggest challenge, he said, is students following through with what kids say they want to do. “Be

realistic in your goals,” he said.

Mr. Zambrotta said he’s been playing music since he was 13-years old and is in a band to this day. He said he was a DJ in high school and college. “Ms. Burg who is also musically inclined asked me about forming the club,” he said. “It happened at the same time Isaac Morales had the idea about a music club with Mr. Lederer, who left to Flushing High School. Students were thinking about it and staff was thinking about it so it only felt natural to start.” He also said Ms. Burg met some people in the summer to get money for the club but the school didn’t qualify. “It didn’t stop us from having a music club,” he added.

Music club will meet until the start of Regents week.

by Marilynn Bonilla

Queens Voc's Euro Challenge team did not score well enough to make the semi-finals in the Euro Challenge competition.

The team presented their understanding of Spain's economic problems and their suggestions to help, at Credit Suisse in Manhattan on March 18.

"Although we did not win, everyone tried their best and put a lot of effort into the competition," said Marie Vargas, a member of the team.

The team consisted of five sophomores: Eudeirys Espinal, Jesus Espinal, Daniela Ortiz, Upasana Tyagi, and Marie Vargas.

In the Euro Challenge, students learn about the European Union and the Euro. Only freshmen and sophomores are allowed to join the team.

Ms. Gross, the advisor, said that for the competition, teams are to pick one challenge from a list of 10 and one country in Europe that uses the Euro as currency, and recommend policy changes.

"For this competition, we chose to do banking system weaknesses challenge because we were all interested in it. We chose Spain because it's the main section in Europe where the most transactions and banking occur, and they have major issues so it would be easier for us to work with," Upasana said.

Euro Challenge Team Members Win, Team Loses



The Euro Challenge provides video and other resources that discuss inflation, currency exchange, and even how to prepare winning presentations. There was a discussion forum for policy issues on the W!SE website. W!SE is the organization that sponsors the Euro Challenge.

Ms. Gross chose the students to be on the team in October, and

they met each week in November so Ms. Gross could prepare them. In December, team members got an overview of the situation in Europe so the students could analyze the economic issues, from that day, the team worked together to create ideas and solve the problems. "There was a lot of hard work to be done in getting prepared, we had to read, memorize, and study

many economic issues," Marie said.

"Preparing for the competition was stressing, it wasn't easy to collect information and find results for what could help Spain's economic problems," Jesus said.

Marie-Louise Jacques, an executive in the pharmaceutical industry, was the team's mentor. Ms. Gross said the mentor helped

students understand economic concepts, taught presentations and communication skills, and taught macro and micro view of economics. Ms. Gross said that the mentor was a great help to the Queens Voc group.

"Joining this club gave me more knowledge about business. I didn't just learn about the Euro but also how business meetings are held and what is discussed, it was a great experience," said Eudeirys.

"The Euro Challenge is a very unique opportunity for students," said Ms. Gross. "They learned how the US and Europe have similarities and differences, they expanded their reading and understanding level, and they presented in a real world corporate setting. I love working with the students and helping them broaden their knowledge about economic concepts and how the world functions," she said.

"The mentor, Ms. Gross, and the team members were all cooperative and helpful, if someone didn't understand something, someone was there to help. The twins Eudeirys and Jesus were a major help to the team," Upasana said.

There were over 100 teams from different regions that competed. The top five teams received monetary awards, provided by The Moody's Foundation.



Students and teachers line up for delicious homemade food.

Seniors Sell Food For Prom

by Khiran Samsundar

The senior class raised \$2,500 in their spring food festival in the auditorium lobby on Wednesday, March 20.

The funds raised lowered the cost of prom tickets by \$20 each, to \$105.

"I was extremely excited and proud that so many parents and students contributed to the food festival, making it a huge success," said Mr. Vega, senior advisor.

The cost of a plate was five dollars, which included two

entrees and two sides; deserts and drinks were sold separately. "It was a good opportunity to try new foods and contribute for the prom," said Maria Perez.

It took a lot of work to get the festival organized, but after weeks of preparation, the senior class was able to get 40 entrees and 20 sides, a requirement set by Mr. Vega to ensure a successful event.

Empty foil trays were distributed to seniors in the days preceding the food festival, to be filled and brought to room 143 by 9am on March 20. There was no

limit to how many trays a student could contribute, as long as they were sure that they would.

The students who worked this event were selected by Mr. Vega; Amin Al-Sayed, Leander Barrios, Melanie Bastardo, Kimani Brown, Marilynn Bonilla, Denisse Carbo, Romana Hossain, Leiry Jaquez, Daisy Maldonado, Judy Moy, Seida Muratovic, Nichole Perez, Johanna Rocano, Khiran Samsundar, Crystal Scottborgh, Sabrina Spiecker, Karina Taveras, Antonia Torres, Monica Vega, and Nesla Velovic.

Student Art Selected for Showcase

Artwork by students Karen Barreto and Na Zheng was selected from among two hundred entries in the Arts Connection competition. Twenty applicants were selected to have their artwork showcased.

Karen and Na worked on a collaborative project (below) that showcased their painting talents.

The students' artwork will be showcased in Midtown Manhattan for a year.

A ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 21, at which the students will receive a certificate and a \$100 gift card for their efforts.



Celebrating Poetry Month

Poem in Your Pocket Day was held on Tuesday, April 30. Ms. Himmel coordinated the day's activities.

Our final edition in June will have full details.

QV Celebrities Walk the Red Carpet

by Jessica Alcaide

Lady Gaga recently performed at Queens Voc to a small group of students, friends, and family.

Well... it wasn't really Lady Gaga. But according to many of the people who attended Senior Oscar Night, it sure seemed that way.

Senior Oscar Night, now a Queens Voc tradition, consists of seniors dressing up as their favorite celebrities, walking in on a red carpet, being photographed, and performing on stage. And just as with the real Oscars, the "mosts" and "bests" are acknowledged.

Queens Voc's version of Oscar Night took place in the auditorium on Friday, April 12 from 5:30pm to 8pm. Ms. DeCarlo, the advisor of the yearbook committee, organized the event. Approximately 80 people attended. All grades were welcomed to attend. The cost of admission was \$2. This money was used to pay for supplies, which cost around \$250.

There were four performances. First, Michelle Quinde performed as Marina and the Diamonds. She played the piano and sang "Teen Idle." Stephanie Duran performed as Shakira and danced to the song "Hips Don't Lie." Edith Mesa performed as Lady Gaga and sang "Bad Romance." Andrew Vallario performed as Drake and Victoria Noel as Nicki Minaj. Together they sang "Moment For Life." During some of the performances, students stood in front of the stage and cheered for the performers as if it were a real concert.

Also at Oscar Night, the senior "mosts" and "bests" were acknowledged, as selected by the seniors who voted. The winners were:

Categories:	Females:	Male:
Best Dressed:	Jenelle Perrucci	Kanwardeep Singh
Class Sweet Heart:	Natalie Albacarys	Nicholas Cornier
Class Clown:	Ashley Demoss	Kenny Rios
Most Outgoing:	Victoria Noel	Andres Ospina
Most Creative:	Judy Moy	Issac Morales
Most Athletic:	Sabrina Spiecker	Francisco Cornier
Most Unique:	Edith Mesa	Andrew Vallario
Most Shy/Quiet:	Monika Molina	Jonathan Concepcion
Most Studious:	Dorothy Bailey	Raymond Gomez
Best Smile:	Amira Khamis	Andy Collado
Best Flirt:	Rohany Tejada	David Pena
Dynamic Duo:	Valerie Lara	Ricky Rojas
Head Turner:	Nesla Velovic	Kanwardeep Singh
Most Outspoken:	Myra Andrews	Emir De La Cruz
Best Couple:	Paola Alzate	Kenny Rios

"The scenery in the auditorium was amazing, as well as the way people dressed up that night," said Kenneth Jimenez, who dressed up as Christofer Drew Ingle. "I wanted more people to show up, but even though there were not a lot, we still had a lot of school spirit," he added.

Francisco Cornier, who played the character from Twilight and introduced some of the award winners, said, "I thought it was great how our senior class got together to dress up and perform. I also liked the video the teachers made." Every year, teachers make a video to begin the Oscar night Ceremony, this video is the sparkle to start a fun night. "My two favorite characters were Lady Gaga because Edith did an amazing job portraying her, and Ariana Grande because Leslie actually looks like her since she has the red hair and she also did a great



Edith Mesa performing as Lady Gaga.

acting on stage"

Valerie Lara, the winner of the "Dynamic Duo" award said, "I felt nervous but glad that I won this award with my best friend.

Ms. DeCarlo said she struggled to get seniors to participate in the event. She needed people to go on stage and give out the awards, as well as getting people to perform. She said she even thought about cancelling the event because of an initial lack of interest. Yet, afterwards, Ms. DeCarlo said she was "very happy about the way that it went. There were no major problems during the event and everybody seemed to have a good time."

Even though Ms. DeCarlo organized this event, "the entire senior class, especially the yearbook committee and those who participated, really brought this event together." Ms. DeCarlo thanked, "Mr. Vega, who helped tremendously to set up and run the equipment, and Mr. McDonald, who put together the video presented at the beginning of the ceremony, and the administrators, school safety and other teachers that helped in the video."



The "Twilight" cast pose on the red carpet.

QV Mock Trial Team Lose

by Andres Cadavid

The Queens Voc mock trial team lost their first and second round competition thus eliminating the team from the whole competition. The competition occurred in the Jamaica Court House in Queens, New York, on Feb 26, said Mokit Uddin.

Despite the team's practices, they lost the second round court case against Richmond Hill High School. "This time I felt better stepping into the court room because I had more than enough time to practice for my role which was the lawyer in the case," said Mokit. Dachuan Dai, another member of the team said, "Even though I was a backup lawyer, just watching my peers go up was a good experience."

According to Chi Lung Hsu, The judge told the team that if this had been a real court case, then Queens Voc would have won the case. Mr. Davidson, who is the mock trial team coordinator, found something positive in the

experience. "Even though we lost, I saw the kids have a lot of dedication when they went up to do their role." He also said that he looks forward to next year's mock trial team. The team will attend the New York State finals in New York City on May 13. "This will give the team an experience of how the finals are played," Mr. Davidson said. Awards will also be distributed for teams that showed a great deal of effort. All other schools that were eliminated from the competition are also invited to go to the NY state finals.

The case was Cattaraugus Programming University vs Martin Morgan. The case was about a student named Martin Morgan who applied to CPU because of the fancy brochure that detailed high quality information about the University. When he got accepted, he took out a loan to pay for the university. When he got out, he could not find a job and was in major debt. In their defense, the university said that Morgan was partying instead of studying.

Who's the Teacher?

by Diego Palacios

Teacher 2

Teacher 1

- Enjoys basketball.
- Is a big Manchester United and New England Patriots Fan.
- Would trade places with Tom Brady instantly because of Gisele.
- Favorite holiday features corned beef and cabbage.
- Electrical installation teacher.

- Enjoys baseball and bowling.
- Big Atlanta Braves and Miami Dolphins fan.
- Doesn't eat anything green, including salads.
- Doesn't like barbers.
- High School nickname was Superman.
- Skills USA coordinator.
- Former Queens Voc student.

Teacher 3

- Has been teaching in Queens Voc for approximately 30 years.
- Has traveled to over 50 different countries.
- Has led trips to Philadelphia as a tour guide.
- Was 19 years old when graduated from college.
- He has taught Mr. Abreu, Mr. Cintron, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Yu at one point.
- For the past three years he has been a gold star teacher in Financial Literacy with 90% of his students getting their certifications.

Teacher 4

- Graduated from Pace University.
- Studied finance.
- Greek nationality.
- Has been teaching in Queens Voc for four years.
- Students have a hard time pronouncing her name.
- Is a Mets, Knicks, and Giants fan.
- Teaches mostly sophomores.

Teacher 5

- Graduated from Brooklyn College with a Bachelor's degree.
- Lives on Long Island.
- She owns an SUV.
- Responsible for more than 150 students.
- She does not dye her hair.
- When she looks out her window, she sees 38th Street.
- Has a guidance degree.

Teacher 6

- There is a famous comedian that looks like him.
- Anti sports fan.
- Loves to listen to Bachata.
- Born on the island of Saint Vincent.
- Has been teaching eight years in this school.
- Teaches OSHA, CFM, and NCCER classes.
- Teaches sophomores and seniors.

Teacher 7

- Teaches global history.
- Is a huge Yankees fan.
- She is from Puerto Rico and lives in Brooklyn.
- Has been teaching for two years in this school.
- Just had a new baby.
- She has a twin sister.
- Graduated from Queens College.

Answers for Who's the Teacher:

- 1. Mr. Meadows
- 2. Mr. Bowen
- 3. Mr. Daniel
- 4. Mr. Rodriguez
- 5. Mr. Davidson
- 6. Mr. Cintron
- 7. Mr. Morgan

Editorial

Athletes Should Get Credit

Late schedules at Queens Voc are hurting our sports teams, and they are hurting student-athletes’ grades. Public Schools Athletic League competitions are scheduled to begin at 4pm, but many of our team members don’t get out of school until almost 4:30. So they either give up trying to be on a team, or leave school early and miss their classes, which hurts their grades.

There are several ways to solve this problem. Starting and ending the school day earlier is an obvious solution, but it seems as though it has already been decided that isn’t going to happen next year. Another possibility is changing schedules of student-athletes to put them on an earlier session. Schedule changes are done in other schools, but not here, where CTE classes often dictate students’ schedules.

Removing physical education from athletes’ schedules will help the students and their teams, not to mention make the overcrowded gym less crowded.

New York State allows students who participate on interscholastic teams to be awarded physical education credit. Many teams practice two hours a day, five days a week. Some even play on Saturdays. That’s much more time than students get in a PE class, fulfilling the requirements of Chapter 11 Subchapter G of the Regulations of the Commissioner. The New York City Department of Education endorses that state regulation.

The state regulation reads “...students in grades 10-12 who have demonstrated acceptable levels of physical fitness, skills, and knowledge of PE activities through achievement of the commencement-level PE learning standards as determined by the principal and physical education staff, may receive PE course credit for participation in an extra class or after-school athletic program if such a program meets the equivalent of the instructional time requirements per semester.”

This rule sounds both logical and fair for student-athletes. And it wouldn’t be the only way students at Queens Voc earn credits for not taking classes. Queens Voc should implement this rule to help our athletes, whose days are long as it is.

John Bowne HS has implemented this, and according to Mr. Peter Mallo, a physical education teacher and varsity baseball coach. In Bowne, the school the students can earn half a credit for only one semester. Coach Mallo likes this rule. “It is a great idea that should be done, I encourage other schools to do it. It helps the students who play sports.”

Queens Voc athletic director Mr. Maloney said he would support using the rule for athletes who have to make up PE credits. That’s a start. What’s more, he has committed to looking into this further. We hope he does.

The late schedules at Queens Voc have hindered our athletes and our teams. We have the chance to help. It’s time we do.

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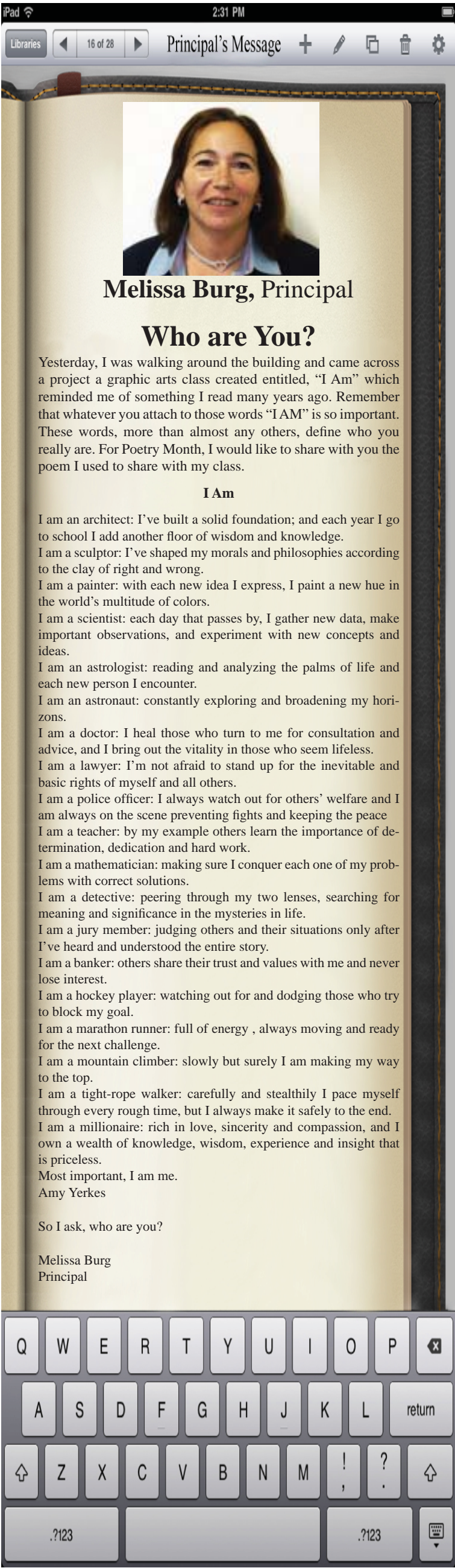
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“Good enough”
is the enemy of “it
can be better.”

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



Mr. Schimenz
Main Office



Music Reviews

by Isaiah George

“Started From the Bottom”
Drake

This song is quite catchy. There is a flow to this song that is just so addicting. Drake expresses himself through his words, and his lyrics are comprehensible. He portrays his life before his illustrious rap career what he became, showing how he, as the title states, started from the bottom. Expect to hear this song often on the radio. It’s a hit.

Rating- 4 /5 *****

“When I Was Your Man”
Bruno Mars

Interesting song, sweet yet sad, and can really leave a person thinking. Bruno Mars verbally illustrates a recent break-up and all the changes that come with it. He relates how he could have improved his actions while he had the chance but he didn’t and now she is out his life and part of someone else’s. I like the song because it applicable to those who have been in or are going through a similar situation. Bruno Mars is an exceptional artist whose music

career is on the rise.

Rating- 3/5 ***

“Suit and Tie”
Justin Timberlake ft. Jay Z

Justin’s voice, Jay Z’s style, and the catchy beat create a well-blended song. It happens to be his first single in six years. Justin has announced that his new album, the 20/20 Experience, will be coming out sometime this year. Listen to this song among other amazing songs that will have be from this album.

Rating- 4/5 *****

“Power Trip”
J. Cole ft. Miguel

This is a rhythmic song. J. Cole and Miguel come together to make a song about the feeling of want by man for a woman and how that feeling can really affect someone. The chorus shows that effect when it states, “got me up all night all I’m singing is love songs.” This part of the song shows how J. Cole wants this woman so much, that he’s losing sleep thinking about this woman. A great song.

Rating- 4/5*****

Tips For Prom

by Kimani Brown

Prom may be one of the most spectacular highlights of high school. Whether you’re going solo or with a date or a group, follow these few tips to make sure everything goes as planned.

1. Budgets -Before you start buying anything for this special night, you need to set a reasonable budget. Keep in mind you will be paying for the tickets, a dress, a suit, shoes, jewelry, hair, make up, and nails.

2. Limousine Rentals – Make sure you know how many people are going to be in your limo so you can split the cost evenly because it can be quite expensive. Sometimes when you reserve the limo a few weeks prior to the event, you are offered discounts.

3. Attire – When looking for a dress or suit, purchase it ahead of time just in case it needs to be tailored. Remember to not buy shoes that you won’t be able to dance in all night, and girls, if

you can’t walk in your heels, you should start practicing now.

4. Your Date - Try to find an outfit that matches your date dress or suit. Also, don’t forget to buy your date a corsage or boutonniere.

5. Exercise and Health – It’s best if you keep up with your shape especially if you have already altered your dress or suit. Keep in mind to eat right and work out a bit.

6. Preparation – Ladies, remember to have your hair, nails, and makeup appointment set up at least a week or so in advance so you won’t have to wait all day to get ready. Guys make sure you get a nice haircut, fresh shave, and cologne, but not too much.

7. After Prom – Prom comes to an end but the night is not over, so go out and make more memorable moments with your closest friends. You may want to go to a boat party, a club, the beach, or even a house party. Lastly, don’t forget to be safe and have fun!

Answers for Word Search:	
၁) Bookkeeper	၁၀) Construction Skills
၈) Leadership	၁၈) College Now
၂) Music Club	၂၀) Future Business Leaders of America
၃) Chess Club	၂၁) Book Club
၄) English Club	
၅) Future Business Leaders of America	
၆) Book Club	

Embarrassing Stories

by Andres Cadavid

“One day, I wore a white shirt to school. Everyone was staring at me and snickering but I just ignored them. When I went to play gym, I took off my shirt I realized the back of my shirt had a huge stain!”

- Kevin Tlapanco, Senior

“When I came into this country, I entered elementary school in 2nd grade. I did not know how to eat the food in this country. I got a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The sandwich had two halves, one stacked on top of the other, and I ate it that way. I continued eating this way until I saw one student take a section off and eat it. I felt so stupid after I saw that.”

- Udayan Puthenkalem, Sophomore

“On the senior trip, I was going back to my room from playing soccer. I entered and my friends were playing Xbox. I then literally jumped into the bed to find out I landed on Jessica Alcaide who was yelling in pain. Everyone in the room started to laugh including Jessica, even though she was in pain.” - Hommy Pena, Senior

“My RoboTiger friend and

I were packing for the Robotics competition in New York. Our mentor told us to disassemble the robot cart. We were attempting to take it apart in the school’s lobby. One of the custodians came up to us and tried to help us in front of some team members! They started laughing at us because we needed help from an adult.”

- Amritpal Singh, Junior

“I was in Mr. Davidson’s economics class and began to sleep because I was very tired. He picked on me to answer a question, which is very typical of him to do. I woke up and realized I was drooling! I tried to play it off by answering the question but I got it wrong. Everyone in the room started to laugh, including Mr. Davidson!”

- Maria Abbasi, Senior

“I was cooking a meal for myself. When I was done, I reached up to get a plate from the cabinet. Instead of getting a plate, I got cut by a knife that I previously placed right next to the plate. The next day I went to a meeting and Mr. Holder asked what had happened to my arm? I explained the story and then he said, ‘it’s not because of that you got cut it’s because you can’t cook.’” - Ms. Ramdeo

“My two friends and I went to Toys“R”Us to hang out because we were bored. We walked around the bike section and I found a skateboard on the floor. I started to ride it around in the store. No one saw me use it except my friends. I then went too fast and hit a wall and landed on my butt! My friends started laughing like crazy and a woman looked at us as if we were stupid or something.”

- Jordan Capellan, Senior

“When I was young, I loved to jump over everything. One day, I saw this iron wall and had the urge to jump over it. When I jumped over it, my leg got caught behind the wall and I fell face first on the ground. When I got up, all I saw was the color orange. I could hear my friends saying that I’m not the best jumper anymore.”

- Htet N. Aung, Sophomore

“We had a free day in Ms. Ramdeo’s class once. I got a little bored and created a paper airplane. I threw it a few times until it suddenly and accidentally landed in Ms. Ramdeo’s chest! She got very mad at me and made everyone do work for the rest of the day. My peers got mad at me.”

-Mauricio Rivera, Senior

Word Scramble

by Melissa D. Espinosa

Theme: Clubs and Activities in Queens Voc

1. OKBO CULB	8. OKARBEYO	15. ELOCELG WON
-----	-----	-----
2. TERUFU SESNIBUS DARSELE FO ECIRAMA	9. GOITESRBOR	16. UOMES UQADS
-----	-----	-----
3. =ARNI	10. LSKISL AUS	17. OSMOC LCNICI
-----	-----	-----
4. OERU LENACLHEG	11. OKMC ATLRI MEAT	18. EVDISER CYIT RAWE
-----	-----	-----
5. ELGE BULC	12. OTPEYR ASML	19. STOINCURTNOC ISLKLS
-----	-----	-----
6. CUMIS LCUB	13. ELATNT OHWS	
-----	-----	
7. ARSIDPHLAE	14. CLABK TIRYSOH NTHMO	20. CORAS HTIGN
-----	-----	-----

Sophomore Shop Profiles

by Amin Al-Sayed

Teachers were asked to choose a student who had the best working abilities and knowledge in their respected shop classes.

Questions-

1. Why did you pick this major?
2. Are you planning to continue with this major outside of high school?
3. If you had the choice again, would you pick this major?
4. What do you like about this major?
5. What do not like about this major?
6. Why did your teacher choose you?

Na Zheng - Electronics - Mr. Raushan

1. I chose this major because I'm into math and interested in hands-on work.
2. Yes, because I want to be an engineer.
3. No, I would have chosen EI since its more hands on.
4. I like it because it has hands-on and I'm good at it.
5. What I don't like is that there is a lot note taking.
6. My teacher chose me because I did all my work and put in a lot of effort.



Xiaoping Wang - C-Tech - Mr. Yu

1. It was the hardest major so I chose it.
2. I'm not sure. I want to continue to learn about it throughout high school.
3. Yes, I like this major it's interesting.
4. I like it because it's something I would do and is interesting.
5. What I struggle with is that there is a need to memorize a lot of stuff.
6. I think he chose me because I did well in class and I got really good grades on tests.



Juan Diaz - Electronics – Mr. Raushan

1. I like to work with computers and technical stuff.
2. Yes, I want to work with electronics and use what I learn from this major.
3. Yes, I found it to be the most interesting one.
4. I like that we get to do a lot of hands on work.
5. I like it. There is nothing I don't like.
6. I show a lot of effort and I do all my work



Raven Walker - Cosmetology - Ms. Spallone

1. I have been doing hair since I was little. I have experience with it.
2. Yes, I hope one day I will open my own shop.
3. Yes, I enjoy doing people's hair and seeing them happy afterward.
4. I like how we learn everything by the book rather than how people think it's supposed to be done.
5. I don't like how we don't learn everything that happens in a shop.
6. I do all of my jobs, I'm up to date with my stuff, and my teacher loves me.



Hemant Dhanraj - Electrical Installation - Mr. Abreu

1. I liked what it was about, and there is a lot of hands on work.
2. Yes, I want to be a helper in the electrical installation field.
3. Yeah, because I know a lot about it and I'm good at it.
4. I like all the hands-on stuff and I have experience in it so it's fun.
5. I like everything about it, there's nothing I dislike.
6. I was chosen because I do the most jobs and I do whatever my teacher asks me to do.



Tarek Ahmed - Electrical Installation - Mr. Bowen

1. It seemed interesting when I tried it in exploratory.
2. Yes, I am planning for it to be a part of my career.
3. Yes, I liked it the most out of all the other shops.
4. I like it because there is a lot of hands-on work, that's why I chose it.
5. What I don't like is memorizing a lot of numbers.
6. I'm ahead of everybody and I don't fool around like other people.



William De Los Angeles - Electrical Installation – Mr. Cintron

1. My uncle is involved in this field and he influenced me to pick EI.
2. Yes, I want to get my license, so one day I will have my own company.
3. Yes, because I like it and I like the hands on work.
4. I like the hands on work rather than sitting in a office doing nothing. I like that it is dangerous.
5. If you do something stupid, you could die.
6. I am ahead of everybody in my class and I do well on my tests. I help out Mr. Cintron with whatever he needs.



Catrell Jewell
Business - Mr. Mugan



1. It is something I'm interested in and I have skills in it.
2. Yes, I want to be a business man and want to start businesses.
3. Yes, after trying it I liked it and prefer it over the rest.
4. I do because it is fun and it enhances my skills. I like the lessons and what I learn.
5. I like it. There's nothing bad about it that I can think of.
6. I was chosen because I stay focused in class and I do all of my work.

Upasani Tyagi
Business – Ms. Gross



1. It was very interesting and it gives you a foundation on how to start your own business.
2. I have a different career but it involves aspects of business.
3. Yes I would, there is a lot to learn and it helps me prepare for my future.
4. It helps me with other subjects like math.
5. I don't like the exams because they are hard.
6. I do all my work and I'm committed. I'm not afraid to ask for help when I need to.

Congratulations to the students recognized by their CTE teachers for their outstanding work!

Continued on the next page.

Sophomore Shop Profiles

Jared Martinez - Plumbing - Mr. McCarthy

- 1. I like it and I saw that there is a lot of hands-on work.
- 2. I am trying to join the union after high school.
- 3. Yes, because I enjoy what I do in that class and I have fun doing it.
- 4. I like challenging myself and completing all my jobs.
- 5. I don't like that I have to change every day, it gets annoying after a while.
- 6. I show up every day, work hard, and do all my work.



Krystian Aleksiejuk - Graphic Arts - Ms.Ogunka

- 1. I picked it because I was really good at drawing, and found graphic arts fun.
- 2. Yes, I want to try to get better at what I do and improve my skills.
- 3. Yes, because it enhances my skills the most and it's what I like to do.
- 4. I like how it is a great class, and that all the students are very helpful.
- 5. There is a very big workload, besides that there is nothing I dislike about it.
- 6. I was picked because I try my best every day, and I always look to help others.



Ericka Zumba - Cosmetology – Ms. Lingstuyl



Alex Romero - Plumbing - Mr. McCarthy

- 1. I liked it; it is a man's job.
- 2. No, I'm planning on joining the marines.
- 3. Sure, I found it to be fun and a lot of hands on.
- 4. I like to work with my hands and you need a lot of strength to do the job.
- 5. There is nothing I dislike.
- 6. I do everything I have to, like all of my jobs.



Susana Cardoso - Cosmetology - Ms. Spallone

- 1. I like cosmetology and I like to do hair.
- 2. Yes, I hope one day I can open up my own salon.
- 3. I would have still picked it because I like doing hair and make-up.
- 4. I like that I can deal with peoples hair.
- 5. I don't like doing names, I just don't like it.
- 6. I work hard and I get all my jobs and work done on time.



- 1. I have interest in cosmetology, and I like to do nails and hair.
- 2. Yes, I want to open my own salon.
- 3. Yes, I found it fun and I liked the hands-on work.
- 4. I like doing nails and having to do things hands-on.
- 5. I don't like to do comb outs.
- 6. I have improved in her class and I do all of my work.

Crossword Puzzle

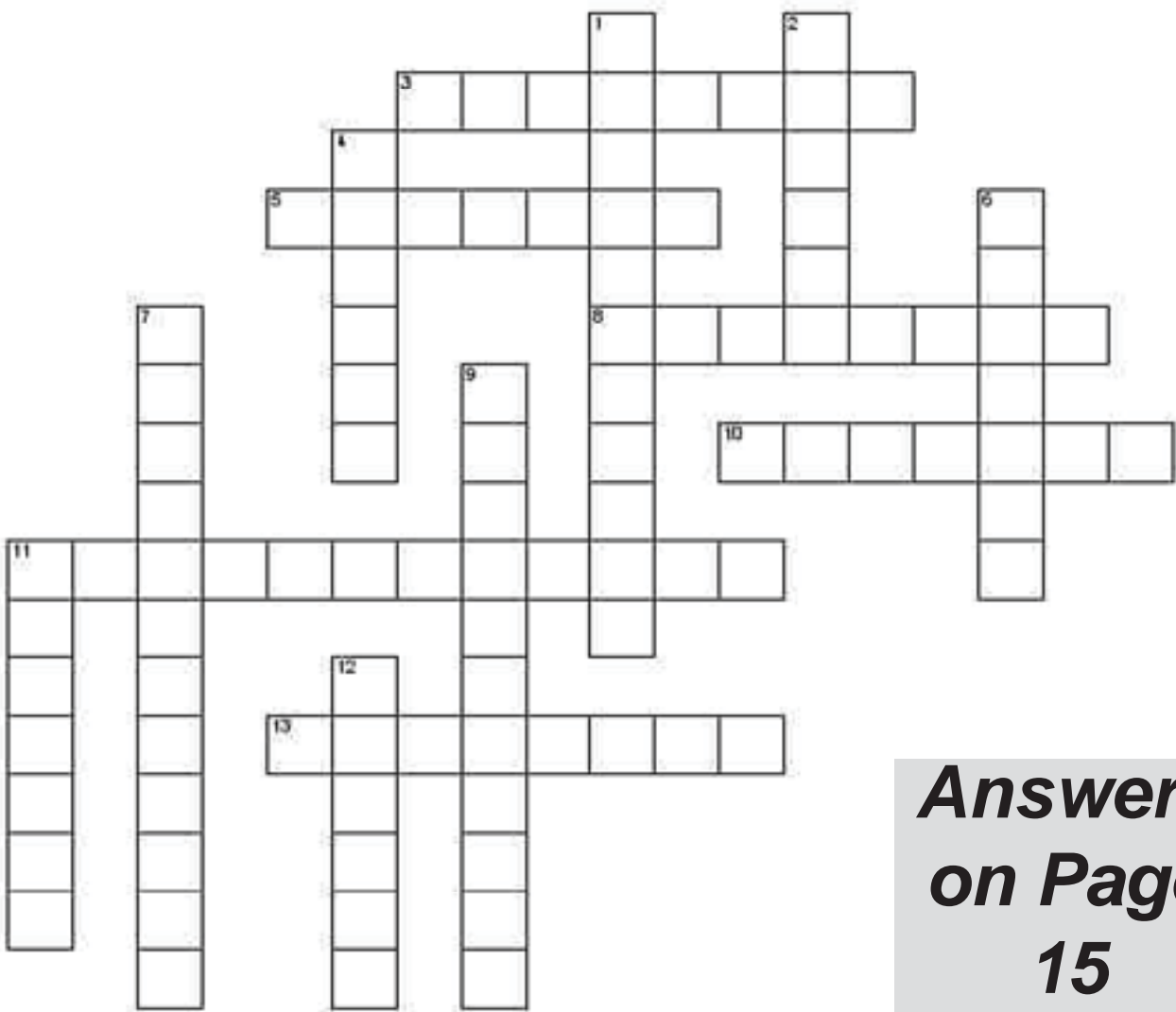
by Andres Ospina

Theme: U.S. States Across

- 3. Home of the Great Lakes.
- 5. The Sunshine state.
- 8. Home of the windy city.
- 10. Home of the city that never sleeps.
- 11. United States capital.
- 13. The first state.

Down

- 1. Smallest state.
- 2. The only state completely surrounded by water.
- 4. Largest state.
- 6. Home of the Grand Canyon.
- 7. Home to the city known as the sweetest place on earth.
- 9. Home of Mount Rushmore National Memorial.
- 11. Home of the Yellowstone National Park.
- 12. Home of the gambling city also known as Sin City.



Answers
on Page
15

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Jose Recinos

Amin Al Sayed



Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on Team: 1

"He surprised a lot of the players. We weren't expected him to be a consistent player because he is new to the game."

-Andres Ospina

"An athletic person, who should be able to adapt a new sport."

-Mr. Maloney

Robert Gonzales



Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on Team: 1

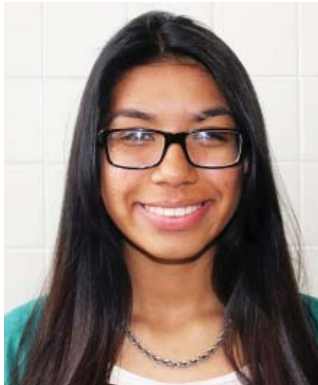
"A lot of stamina and keeps up with the game. He doesn't get tired and knows ways to win the game."

-Andres Ng

"Our first singles player has shown the strength and the skill of necessary to be the top player."

-Mr. Maloney

Marilynn Bonilla



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on Team: 2

"Helps out the team and she always tries her hardest. Any problems within the team she solves."

-Nemesis Noel

"She is emerge one of the leaders of the team. Vital part offensive and defense."

-Mr. Garofano

Antonio Torres



Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on Team: 1

"A consistent player always gives his best effort and encourages other players in the team to play better."

-Esteve Escorza

"First doubles that plays with a lot of intensity, but needs to be focused during his matches."

-Mr. Maloney

Erik Castro

Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On Team: 3



"He is a very humble player and works harder than anyone. I think he is going to have a dominant season due to all his hard work and dedication."

-Osvaldo Nunez

"A good kid with a good heart, loves baseball, and understands what it means to be a team player."

-Coach Schimenz

JV BASEBALL

by Saul Cruz

JV baseball is off to a rocky start.

According to Mr. Cintron, this year is going to be more difficult than previous years because of the longer schedules that interfere with practice time. "We have to have more Saturday practices because it makes no sense to hold a practice after four thirty, but we have no choice. By the time the players get to the field, it's nearly six o'clock," he said. "It has been a challenge to secure a field because of the late bell schedule, as youth leagues begin by 6pm." He has not been able to set up any Saturday practices so far but expects to have one soon.

The JV baseball team was scheduled to play 10 league games from late April to early June. According to PSAL.org, their first game was scheduled for April 23 at Maurice Park against Aviation, but was a double forfeit. According to coach Cintron, the team forfeited because they did not yet have their uniforms.

Last year the JV baseball team ended the year with a 4-5 record and placed fourth in the Queens West division, according to PSAL.org.

The coach was hoping to arrange non-league games against Bryant, Beach Channel, Long Island City, and Grover Cleveland, but has had no success so far. He says he will keep pushing to arrange these games.

Mr. Cintron said he hopes to set

Alexander Pena



Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on Team: 1

"A good partner and overall great player to play as a team."

-Ricky Rojas

"First doubles player ability to be a singles player. Should benefit from doubles."

-Mr. Maloney

Andres Ospina



Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on Team: 1

"He takes time of his own to help other teammates on their game. He is an overall good player."

-Ricky Rojas

"Second singles tremendous endurance during his matches. He can work his opponent down."

-Mr. Maloney

Crystal Scottborgh



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on Team: 1

"She runs fast, tries hard, and a good motivation."

-Yadira Perez

"Brings a ton of energy to the team. In the short been on the team picked up the sport very well."

-Mr. Garofano

up an end of the year JV baseball tournament among the schools in the Queens West division.

According to PSAL.org the 12 players on the JV baseball team are: Harnoor Bhumak, Shourov Deb, Thomas Demakakos, Lyman Iyeke, Christopher Ruiz, John Ulloa, Kevin Vilchez, Santiago Ramirez, Christopher Morocho, Jeffrey Guevara, Michael Badia, and Anthony Angel "I want to end this season with a good record since it is my last year on JV," said the returning sophomore veteran Kevin Vilchez.

Sports Schedules

by Saul Cruz

JV Baseball Schedule

5/9 Queens Voc vs Grover Cleveland (@ FM #14)
5/13 Queens Voc vs LIC (@ FM #14)
5/14 Queens Voc vs Richmond Hill (@ FM #14)
5/21 Queens Voc vs Bryant (@ East Elmhurst playground)
5/24 Queens Voc vs Aviation (@ FM #14)
5/31 Queens Voc @ John Adams
6/5 Queens Voc @ John Adams
6/6 Queens Voc @ Beach Channel

Boys Varsity Baseball

5/8 Queens Voc vs LIC (@ FM #10)
5/14 Queens Voc vs Construction (@ PAL's Oval)
5/16 Queens Voc vs Construction (@ PAL's Oval)

Girls Flag Football

5/7 Queens Voc vs American Studies (@ Murray Playground)
5/9 Queens Voc vs Teachers Preparatory (@ Brooklyn Community Arts & Media Field)
5/13 Queens Voc vs BCAM (@ Murray Playground)

Girls Varsity Softball 2013

5/7 Queens Voc vs American Studies (@ Queensbridge #2)

Flag Football Team Could Still Make Playoffs



Practice in the gym prepares girls for league games.

by Isaiah George

The Queens Voc girls’ flag football team recently participated in the second annual Girls’ flag football Kick-Off Tournament. The girls made it to the second day of the tournament, where they finished with a 2-2 record.

As for the regular season, their record as of May 6 is 2-5. To make it to the playoffs, the team must win their three remaining games. The girls still have to face Academy of American Studies on May 7, Queens Preparatory High School on May 9, and BCAM High School on May 13.

The team lost its last game against Queens High School of Teaching, 51-44. “Defense. We didn’t have enough defense,”

explained Coach Garofano.

We’re underperforming, we’re underachieving...we’ve been on the bad end of a few games and we’re looking to turn it around, but when our team is at full strength we’re as good as any team,” said Coach Garofano. But it isn’t all bad news as some team members are taking on bigger roles.

“Brenda Tavarez has stepped up recently because the starting quarterback, Denisse Carbo, was out on a Robotics competition,” said Coach Garofano. Brenda said she “gathered the girls together and made sure everyone was on task and doing what they needed to do each game.” According to Coach Garofano, Na Zheng has also stepped up and has been playing well.

The season began on April

4 with a league game against Townsend Harris High School. The Queens Voc girls’ flag football team got the win with a final score of 25-20. “There was a huge defensive effort; defense was the story of the game. The best example of this is when we ended the game with a goal line stand,” said Coach Garofano.

To prepare for these games, practices were held Monday through Thursday and on Saturdays. Practices consisted of a warm-up exercise, followed by football drills, and then concluded with a scrimmage.

Tryouts were held March 9-12. “I expected to see a very competitive tryout. I already had a nice nucleus returning from last year, about 11 players, but I also needed to add a couple of pieces to the puzzle, because five girls graduated last year, and I had to replace them,” said Coach Garofano.

The girls’ flag football team consists of Abigail Arriaga, Marilynn Bonilla, Denisse Carbo, Melissa Carbo, Natalie Martinez, Charlene Meza, Ajna Morina, Nemesia Noel, Nabila Parnella, Yadira Perez, Crystal Scottborgh, Brenda Taveras, Monica Vega, Dayana Zamora, and Na Zheng.

After Queens Voc won their first game against Townsend Harris, they lost their second game, against John Adams, 30-25. Facing Queens High School of Teaching next, Queens Voc lost by just one point, 40-39. Queens Voc won its next game, defeating Academy of American Studies, 32-30. Then, the Tigers, playing Townsend Harris for the second time this season, lost 18-13. In the second match-up between Queens Voc and John Adams, Queens Voc lost, 32-31.

Girls’VarsityBasketball Makes 2nd Round

by Andy Collado

The girls’ basketball season came to an end on March 7, as the Lady Tigers lost to sixth ranked Eleanor Roosevelt in the second round of the playoffs. The final score was 46-24.

The girls played hard, but our shots were just not falling. The game was much closer than the final score showed, said Coach Devaux.

The second round loss ended the girls’ season. “I’m disappointed the season ended early, but we tried hard. It was sad to see it end, but the team is good for next year,” said Sabrina Spiecker. “The final game went horrible, defense was at its weakest all season and we were in foul trouble,” said Shannon Zinser.

The girls won their first playoff game, against Springfield Gardens which was the eleventh seed, with score of 45-39, on Feb. 26. Na Zheng scored 20 points, Jasmine Torres had 13 points and

8 rebounds, and Yadira Perez had 10 rebounds.

The Lady Tigers entered the playoffs as the twenty-second seed, with an 11-4 record. They finished the regular season third in their division, the first time they did not finish in first in three years.

“We had a great season with our young players, when there were no expectations. We have a strong nucleus for next season and for the following year after that as well. Returning players Za Zheng, Xi Zheng, and Jasmine Torres are the core players that will be leading us in the future,” said Mr. Devaux.

The starters were Na Zheng, Lucila Cortes, Sabrina Spiecker, Shannon Zinser, and Jasmine Torres. Rounding out the team are Dorothy Bailey, Denisse Carbo, Melissa Carbo, Ashley Demoss, Nabila Parnella, Yadira Perez, Monica Puspasari, Katelynn Santiago, Tiffani Scanlon, Brenda Taveras, and Xi Zheng.



Lay-up line prepares girls to outscore opponents 644 to 478.

Girls’ Softball finishes in 4th Place

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Sabrina digs out a hit.



Indoor workout during early spring gets team ready.

on the amount of dedication and helpfulness the girls showed.

Freshman Thiaralyn Objio said, “I think the softball team is fun. I’m doing well and I’m getting along with my teammates.” She decided to join the team because she has played baseball before and she is hoping to gain a softball scholarship.

The team has an Instagram account, to share photos with friends and family. The softball team’s pictures can be viewed at qvsoftball2013.

Unusual Season for Varsity Baseball

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pull together and there are a lot of players who haven’t been exactly full-time team members,” said the coach. Students are involved with baseball but also involved with after school activities as well as clubs. “Further,” the coach said, “there’s been less ‘team’ attitude and more ‘me’ attitudes. I’m not accustomed to that, and it has decidedly hurt our team.”

Crossword Puzzle Answers:

- | Across | Down |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 3. Michigan | 1. Rhode Island |
| 5. Florida | 2. Hawaii |
| 8. Illinois | 4. Alaska |
| 10. New York | 6. Arizona |
| 11. WashingtonDC | 7. Pennsylvania |
| 13. Delaware | 9. South Dakota |
| | 11. Wyoming |
| | 12. Nevada |



Girls Softball on Track for .500 Season and a Shot at the Playoffs

by Andres Ospina

Halfway through the season, the girls’ softball team has 6 wins and 7 losses.

The team’s coach, Mr. Boyle, is unhappy with the results of the season so far. “I am disappointed because the girls aren’t playing to their full potential and I thought the season could have started a lot better,” he said. Junior Estefania Villegas, a three-year veteran who pitches and plays first base, said the team is inconsistent. “There’s days when the team is at its best, but then there’s days when the team is at its worst,” she said.

The team won the season opener against Wagner (32-9), and their second game against Info Tech (20-5). But the team lost the next three games against Metropolitan Campus (17-7), American Studies (18-8), and Queens Complex (29-8). The girls then defeated Wagner (27-16) and Info Tech (22-13) again, and lost against American Studies (24-9), and Metropolitan Campus (20-4). The Lady Tigers later defeated Queens Complex (27-14), and Wagner (31-16), and lost two games against Baccalaureate (10-8 and 17-2).

Coach Boyle had 14 returning

players who he thought would help the team make it to the playoffs, but, he said, “When the veterans are good, they’re good, but unfortunately when they’re bad it really hurts the team.” Senior Nicole Osorio, a three-year veteran and team catcher, said the veterans haven’t been playing at their best this year. “Most of the team consists of experienced players who know what they’re up against, but most of us haven’t been as dedicated,” she said. Captain Sabrina Spiecker, agreed. “It has been a difficult season because we lost a lot of good players.”

To raise money for equipment, the team hosted a bake sale outside the cafeteria in the beginning of April. Coach Boyle said the team raised almost \$1,000 selling hotdogs, tacos, drinks, and baked goods such as cookies and cakes.

At the end of February, Sabrina led captain’s practices at Bush Park. In March, when the season officially started, the team practiced regularly, Monday through Friday, 4:30pm-6:30pm, in the gym. During the spring break, the team practiced at their home field, Bush Park. “The practice we had indoors was good, but I’m glad we got to practice on the field,” said Nicole. Coach Boyle said that the team wasn’t

the only school on the field. “We had some unexpected non-league games that served as good practice for the newer girls on the team,” said Coach Boyle.

The Lady Tigers did not have tryouts in October as Coach Boyle planned because of “complications that occurred before and after Hurricane Sandy,” he said. Instead, after recruiting, the coach selected a team of 21 girls, based

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Unusual Season for Varsity Baseball

by Antonio Torres

The boys’ varsity baseball team had an incredible season last year, winning their division with a 15 & 1 record, and becoming B division finalists, losing 2-1 to South Bronx in the PSAL championship.

This year the team is 3 and 9. After being moved into the Queens A West division despite the loss of ten top players who graduated last year.

“PSAL moved us into the A division based on our record from previous seasons. They did not take into consideration the skills of the players who graduated, and of those on the team this year,” said the coach. “PSAL made a mistake. They refused to listen when we told them that our team would be losing our key players,” he said. The coach said that even some people at Queens Voc said this would be a great move for the team and the school, but they didn’t look at it realistically—and they don’t have to be here each day to see the results. The varsity baseball team is Queens Voc’s first A division team and they’re in dead last.

In the 16 years Mr. Schimenz has been coaching, the Tigers have seen a city championship, two

trips to the championship, three division championships, and 13 playoffs appearances. “It seems as though we’ve been penalized for one success,” he said

The schools in the team’s division are John Adams, Franklin K. Lane Campus, Newtown, Forest Hills, William C. Bryant, Richmond Hill, Queens HS of Teaching, Long Island City, and HS for Construction.

There are six games so far this year in which the team lost by the 10-0 run mercy rule. With only seven games left in the season, it is impossible for the team to see a playoff spot, breaking an 11 year run.

Bad decisions, the coach said, didn’t stop at moving the team into the A division. “Once the PSAL moved us into A, they scheduled numerous B division games at our home field, eliminating much of the time we would ordinarily be able to practice.” The coach wonders how he’ll be able to develop players for future seasons.

“This is a very tough season for Queens Voc. We needed each player to show team spirit and pull together on the field or off the field. But we didn’t really

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Tigers Sports Continued Inside