

# Vocational Voice

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

Fall, 2006



Senior food festival is a huge success.

## Busy Year Ahead for Senior Class

by Yessenia Perez

Long lines demonstrated the popularity of the Senior Food Festival that took place on Tuesday, November 21 in the auditorium lobby. Students paid \$4 for 2 entrees, and 2 sides, and \$1 for drinks and desserts. The food fest was held during all lunch periods. "The food festival was well organized and I enjoyed it," said Steven D'Elena, a junior.

Many seniors brought in food such as roast turkey, plantains, numerous kinds of rice, and flan. The fundraising event will help reduce the cost of senior activities such as the prom.

Senior dues are overdue! Seniors who have not paid their dues missed the December 1 deadline. Those who failed to meet the deadline, seniors were told, would be penalized a \$10 late fee.

Senior dues are \$125, which pays for the yearbook (\$70), senior t-shirt (\$10), diploma cover (\$6), cap and gown (\$16),

and graduation expenses (\$23). Graduation expenses include flowers, balloons, and other decorations for the graduation ceremony at LaGuardia Community College. A \$60 deposit for senior dues was due on Wednesday, November 1, and seniors were supposed to pay the balance by December 1.

Queen's Voc senior class got off to an early start. On Tuesday, September 19, seniors had their first meeting with their senior advisor, Mr. Vega, who stressed the importance of seniors passing their classes so that they have the necessary credits to graduate. He also discussed typical senior class activities. Jose Marine, a representative of Herff Jones, the senior ring company, was also present at the meeting. He gave students catalogs and discussed the various products Herff Jones has available.

Senior officers were elected on Tuesday, September 26. Estefania Garcia ran unopposed for the position of senior

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## VICA Awaits Competition

by Renato Lulaj

The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, also known as Skills USA VICA, is a national student organization that develops students' leadership skills, technical skills, and intellectual skills in their field of work. It is an organization dedicated to students in technical education programs or on work-based learning sites.

Ford, Dodge, Dell, and CompTIA (a trade association serving the microcomputer industry) sponsor VICA.

Students participating in VICA pay a \$13 fee and raise funds for the organization by selling chocolate.

Schools that participate in the VICA competition select students to compete in fields that the schools specialize in. At Queens Voc, selected students then go through more in-school training to sharpen their skills before moving on to the statewide competition, held every April for 3 days and 2 nights, in Syracuse, New York. There are prizes for first place, second place, and third place winners in the statewide competition. First place winners advance to the national competition, held in Missouri every June for 1 week. This competition also gives students a chance to get scholarships from recruiting companies.

Kacy James and Heriberto Velasquez are the only remaining VICA members who attended last year's competition.

Kacy described the competition as, "nerve wracking, because the competitors looked prepared and intimidating, like they knew more than me." Heriberto said that the experience was, "good for me because I was able to observe what electrical installation skills are required outside New York City."

Mr. Cintron, a computer teacher, is Queens Voc's VICA advisor. He has been to the VICA competitions for six straight years. "VICA is an excellent opportunity for students to make themselves known to colleges and industries," that, Mr. Cintron said, "are looking for students who are committed to their field of work."



Spanish cultures highlighted by Grupo QV.

## Grupo QV in Concert School's Homegrown Band in Another Popular Production

by Daniel Medina

Grupo QV took center stage in what was yet to be a memorable night on Friday, November 3. Over 150 students, teachers, staff members, and guests gathered after school in the auditorium to listen and dance to the live Spanish music performed by Grupo QV, a school-based Latino band that originated in 2004.

The event started at 4:15pm and ended just before 7pm. Opening remarks by Ms. Vittor, Mr. Vega, and Mr. Vela opened the show, and Grupo QV led off the evening with a tipico song called "Mala Maña." The song hyped mostly everyone and most of the seats emptied as the pit in front of the stage filled with dancing teachers, students, and guests. "As soon as I heard the first song play, my adrenalin started pumping," said Joel Moreaux, a senior.

Grupo QV played 6 songs before taking a break and when they returned, they played 5 more. During the break, Mrs. Baez-Medina, Parent Coordinator, read a poem called "Broken Ends, Broken Promises." Then Ms. Vittor again addressed the audience. While Grupo QV was backstage resting, students danced to Spanish music from a CD player. Dairis Jimenez enjoyed the songs that were played while Grupo QV was taking a break, but she said she enjoyed Grupo QV more.

"Grupo QV was very nice and the musicians were very talented. The singers kept the

crowd entertained and it's great to see our talented students coming together to celebrate their heritage. I really enjoyed it," said Mr. Garcia. The students seemed to agree. "The show was really good and the music was great," said Marisol Marcano. The pit in front of the stage was the dance floor for the evening and it was rarely left empty while the group performed.

Junior Perez, the lead singer, provided most of the vocals for Grupo QV, while Mr. Rodriguez and Kevin Muñoz provided the chorus. Jessy Collado led the group with guitar, and Queens Voc alumni Leo Taveras played the second guitar, Benny Cabrera substituted for Jessy and played guitar for the three remaining songs of the evening. Rene Cruz played the bass guitar, Julio Olivo played the drum and bongo, and Rusty De La Cruz played the guirra. Jonathan Matias contributed some vocals for Grupo QV when he sang "Mama Y Mama."

"This year we wanted to spice things up, so we decided to bring in the conga, an accordion, and the saxophone," said Junior. The conga was played by Ariel Cruz, the accordion was played by Steven Vargas, and the saxophone was played by Andy Vargas.

Junior and Mr. Rodriguez hyped up the crowd by giving shutouts to peers. "This time around we were more sensitive to other Hispanic cultures; we made sure we mentioned all cultures, our goal of the night was to bring to light the

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**Leadership students help run senior food fest.**

## Busy Year Ahead for Seniors

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president. Jennifer Cabrera beat out Stephanie Valerio for vice president, Yolanis Barros defeated Diana Espinal for the treasurer, and Rayvan Walker defeated Leidy Sierra for secretary.

As the senior class president, "I'm going to do my best to give the seniors a great year, filled with many activities." I will also want to make the class of 2007 the most memorable year," Estefania said.

"I was very happy that I won," said Jennifer. "But I also knew that I had to work harder because winning came along with a lot of responsibilities." Yolanis Barros said that she would like for all seniors to cooperate with senior dues and the senior trip by meeting all deadlines. The new class secretary also takes the job seriously. "My goal is to inform seniors about senior events and encourage them to attend," Rayvan said.

Continental Studios set up a temporary studio in the auditorium at Queens Voc on October 14 and October 21, so seniors who didn't have their pictures taken in the summer had a second chance. In previous years, students had to go to the studio in Forest Hills. Seniors interested in having their baby pictures in the yearbook were asked to drop off the pictures in either room 143 or room 301. According to Yuri Gomez, a yearbook editor, the last day to drop off the baby pictures is Friday, December 15.

Jose Marine returned in October and November to take ring orders. Deposits of \$50 were required for ring orders. The cost of the rings ordered by Queens Voc seniors this year ranges from \$85 to \$520. Twenty-seven seniors ordered rings.

The senior trip will be held at Nevele Grande Resort in the Catskills. The trip will take place from Friday, January 12, until Sunday, January 14. The cost of the trip is \$240. A deposit of \$75 was due by November 27. "Many people are interested in

the trip and I am hoping there will be a good turnout," Treasurer Yolanis Barros said.

To raise money for the senior trip, prom, and other activities, seniors can raise funds by selling candy. For more information see Mr. Vega in room 143.

## Collegebound? Take the SAT

by Jelissa Peña

The SAT is one of the most important tests for high school students planning to attend a four-year college. It is a standardized test frequently used by colleges and universities in the United States to aid them in the college admissions process. Known as the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the SAT reasoning test measures the student's ability to solve problems.

Scores on the SAT are often used as criteria for scholarships. "I believe that all students should take the SAT or ACT, and use these scores as a guide when deciding what college to attend," said Mrs. Basirico, the college advisor. She recommends that students initially take the SAT in April of their junior year and again in the fall of their senior year. Statistics show that generally, the more students take the SAT, the better they do.

Kayla White is one student who took the SAT in May of her junior year. "The SAT is very hard and long and you have to concentrate on each section of the test, because it is 25 minutes long." Kayla is not the only student who found the test difficult. Senior Stephanie Valerio said that "The test in general was very hard, especially the math, because of the way the questions are phrased." Senior Estefania Garcia also took the SAT. She said that "The SAT is a very challenging test that takes a lot of concentration and a lot of time. The math is the most

challenging portion, in my opinion."

SATs are usually required for students applying to a four-year college. Mrs. Basirico, the college advisor, recommends that students with a grade point average below a 65 percent should start their college career at a two-year community college. This enables students to develop the skills that are needed to enter a four-year college.

The SAT consists of three sections: math, writing (essay), and critical reading. The test takes 3 hours and 45 minutes. Students receive their score two or three weeks from the test date. Scores on each section range from 200-800. A perfect score on the new SAT is 2400.

Students planning to take the SAT can go to Mrs. Basirico in room 151 for assistance in registering. Students can register by mail or online at collegeboard.com. The cost for taking the SAT is \$41.50. Fee waivers that entitle students to register online or by mail at no cost are granted to some students based on their parents' income. Eligibility requirements for fee waivers are posted in the college advisor's office.

Collegeboard.com offers a SAT question of the day and has practice tests that students can complete. Studying from Collegeboard.com will give students a sense of what they need to know for the test. Another website that can aid students study for the SAT is Number2.com.

The SATs are only offered seven times a year: October, November, December, January, March, May, and June. Registration for the test ends a month before the actual test.

## Vandalism Leads to Bathroom Lock-Outs

by Kelvin Smartt

Many student bathrooms in Queens Voc have been locked because of the amount of damage done to them.

"The amount of vandalism is



**Damaged towel dispenser.**

## Grupo QV in Concert

*continued from page 1*

contributions of Hispanic communities," said Mr. Rodriguez.

"We made good song choices and we performed well," Kevin Muñoz said. Junior gives a bulk of the credit to Mr. Rodriguez and Kevin because "they were a big reason why the songs sounded so good."

Grupo QV played songs that are currently popular within the Hispanic culture and as well songs that captivate the young Hispanic community. "The songs they picked to play were hot, especially 'El Bailero Del Perrito,'" said Cristian Rodriguez.

The performance ran smoothly according to Rene Cruz, and "everybody looked like they were having a blast."

A lot of preparatory work went into the event. Grupo QV

practiced after school once, sometimes twice per week. Grupo QV initially rehearsed in the student cafeteria but decided to move practice to the auditorium because of the poor acoustics in the cafeteria.

Many people were impressed with the group's performance. The performance was enhanced by Junior Perez, who helped keep the group sound crisp. "Since I play for another group outside of school, I was able to guide the band. "I didn't play the guirra this year, so I was able to focus more on my vocals and between songs find flaws that we may have been having," Junior added.

Mr. Rodriguez says that this recent performance was by far the best he has been part of. Most of the teachers, students, and guests in attendance seemed to agree.



**Students dance to the music of Grupo QV.**

unimaginable. They have been horribly destroyed, mostly in the boys' bathrooms. Faucets were removed from sinks and taken. Garbage bins were smashed. Tissue holders were ripped out and the toilet paper put into the toilets. Vandalism occurred in every bathroom on an everyday basis," said Head Custodian Marcia Jarrett.

"Repairs were made in October. But it probably doesn't seem like that because every time we replace a part in the bathrooms, within a few weeks it gets damaged or completely ripped off. Faucets were just repaired but if you take a look at the sinks in the boys' bathroom on the first floor in the new wing, they are now missing. This is a sad situation and I feel sorry for those students who actually want a clean functional bathroom," said Ms. Jarrett.

"Another reason for the locked bathrooms is the excessive loitering. Many students, instead of going to class, hang out in the bathrooms," said Mr. Vela,

assistant principal at Queens Voc.

Ms. Jarrett said that "Students need to take the initiative to be responsible mature young adults and quit vandalizing the school bathrooms."

Vandalism also inconveniences students.

Out of the 15 student bathrooms that Queens Voc has, only two are open throughout the school day. These bathrooms are located on the first floor in the new wing because the school safety agents can monitor the movement of students in and out of the bathrooms.

"It's sad to say, but the locked bathrooms are needed. Students take advantage of the bathrooms being open and destroy them. To reduce vandalism from occurring, staff members and safety agents need to be alert to who's in the hallway. We as teachers need to raise the level of responsibility and students need to be responsible and respect school property," said Ms. Radovich, assistant principal for Humanities and the Arts, and the director of the 9th grade School of Exploration and Discovery.

# Cosmo Students Getting Their S-Hair of the Deal

by Diomedes Gonzalez

Cosmetology students practice on manikin heads, but in the senior Cosmo Clinic, these future hair stylists get to work on real people.

"In the lower grades, students work on manikins but we wanted them to get experience working on clients because we're preparing them for their license," said Mr. Grochala, who is one of the senior Cosmetology teachers. The clinic also helps the cosmetology seniors learn how to deal with customers. Further, "their work helps them get closer to the 1000 hours needed to receive their license and get a job in a hair salon," added Mr. Grochala.

The Cosmo Clinic is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays in room 334 from 12pm to 3pm. The clinic is also open on Thursdays and Fridays in room 334, from 8am to 10am. The clinics are open to students and outside clients, but the outside clients have to be over 21. "We would like to encourage more teachers and students to take advantage of the professional services," said Ms. Quartuccio, a 30-year cosmetologist, former owner of a salon, and current teacher. The cosmo students have put up flyers around the school listing the clinic's services and hours of operation.



**Samantha works hard and her customer is all smiles.**

The senior cosmetology students have 2 to 3 years experience with hair and nails. That experience makes all the students in the senior cosmetology class eligible to work on clients. "They come in and we get the chance to practice on live people," said Sandy Manjarrez, a senior cosmo student. Stephanie Rosario, also a senior cosmo student, added, "it feels good to know they trust me and leave with a satisfied attitude." The practice from working on clients

helps the cosmo students by raising their skill level and confidence.

The Cosmo Clinic raises money to pay for special products and equipment to be used on clients. According to Ms. Quartuccio, "the clients who have come to the clinic have been more than satisfied."

The clinics offer a variety of hairstyles and manicures. The prices range from \$2 to \$25 dollars, depending on the services. The service prices at the clinic are as follow:

<b>Blow Dry</b>	
Style very short hair	\$4
Chin-length w/shampoo	\$6
Extra long hair	\$7
<b>Hair Cuts</b>	
Plain	\$5
Shape Up	\$3
Special Design	\$6
<b>Braids and Flat Twist</b>	
Half Head	\$5
Whole Head	\$8
Design	\$2
Hair Weaves	\$10 and up
<b>Esthetics</b>	
Facials	\$5
Eyebrow shaping	\$3
Wax	\$5
<b>Nails</b>	
Purchase of nail set	\$5.00
Nail Tips	\$12 and up
Manicure	\$3
French Manicure	\$3
Fill-in Manicure	\$10
Paraffin Wax	
w/ manicure	\$8
Paraffin Wax (alone)	\$4

<b>Hair Coloring</b>	
Shampoo	\$3
Single Process	\$15
Double Process	\$20
Frosting	\$25
Rinse-temporary	\$8
<b>Hair Styling</b>	
Permanent Wave	\$20
Chemical Relaxers	\$20
Fingerwave/Pincurl Style	\$10
Roller Set	\$5
Thermal Press	\$5
Thermal Cut	\$5



**VE participates in Ad Council competition.**

## Virtual Enterprise Students' Alcohol Awareness Campaign

by Stephanie Baique

Queens Voc's Virtual Enterprise recently participated in an Advertising Futures competition. This competition was held on Friday, September 29, at the McGraw-Hill building located on West 49th Street in Manhattan. The competition, organized by the Ad Council, a private non-profit organization, consisted of 40 New York City high schools. The VE representatives from Queens Voc were Estefania Garcia, Jose Vargas, Peter Serraty, and Robin Cunjie.

The purpose of the Ad Council is to produce, distribute, and promote public service campaigns based on issues such as improving the lives of children, improving education, and improving health. This year's task was to create a poster encouraging parents of teens to speak with their children about the harmful effects of alcohol consumption.

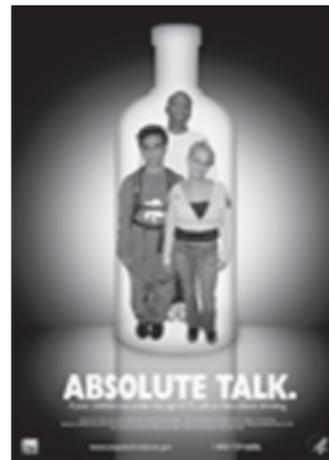
The team members were originally partnered with one advertising agency, but that agency dropped out of the competition at the last minute. They were then assigned to another advertising agency, Wunderman NY, which put the team members on a two week deadline.

During the process of completing their task, the team members visited advertising professionals at their offices and had a first-hand experience of how the advertising world works. "They were under a very tight deadline and they were able to complete the project as well as explain their work in front of a large audience and a panel of judges," Mr. Mugan said.

Jose Vargas said that all the members worked as a team and put all the work together rather than have their own part to do. "Robin and I participated in the design and presentation of the competition," Jose said. Seniors Jose and Robin are first year VE students.

Jose also helped design the ad and came up with the ad's slogan: "Absolute Talk. If your children are under the age of 15, talk to them about drinking."

"The competition boosted my interest in the field of design. I got more knowledge about what advertising is all about and I learned from the professionals," Robin said.



**Students in a bottle.**

Peter Serraty, who is also a first year VE student, developed the idea for the ad's image. Estefania Garcia, 2-year VE student, advised Peter on how to present his speech in front of the audience. "It was a good experience for all of our 4 members and it gave us an opportunity to improve our business skills," Estefania said.

"VE teaches responsibility and time management to keep a business successful. Advertising is a time consuming job. A lot of research is needed to get the job done right," Jose said.

According to Mr. Mugan, the poster that his students created was not selected as one of the top 3 winning ads of the competition. Regardless, Mr. Mugan said, "it was definitely a great learning experience for the team."



## College Advisor Excited to Help

by Jacqueline Concepcion

Aside from being a cosmetology teacher, she is now the school's new college advisor.

Being the college advisor is challenging, Mrs. Basirico said, because "It's my responsibility to help students obtain as much knowledge as possible about college and the application process. It's exciting because with every student who wants to apply to college, I feel I have some input. It's worrisome because I want to reach all the students."

"I think it's a great idea," Mr. Vela said. "Mrs. Basirico has prepared herself for a career as a guidance counselor. Her familiarity with our students and her professional experience make her an ideal candidate to be a college advisor."

Mrs. Basirico said that her role is "to inform students about college applications, websites, scholarship information, and any other information needed in the college process." She can help students fill out applications, as well as give advice on what colleges might be suitable for students, based on their interests.

Students may visit Mrs. Basirico's office, located on the first floor in the Guidance Suite, Monday through Friday, periods 2,3,4,5, and 7.

The students who visit Mrs. Basirico are impressed. "I think she is awesome because she helps me with the college process," said Stephanie Rosario, a cosmetology major. "She helps me understand parts of the application which are confusing. She also answers questions concerning scholarships, HEOP, SUNY, and CUNY. She is an awesome person."

Danny Chen, a business major, said, "She helps me out when I go to her. She helped me get a fee waiver for my SAT and she gave me vital college information."

According to Mrs. Basirico, one does not have to be a senior to see her. Freshmen, sophomores, or juniors with questions about college should not hesitate to go to her office, she said.

"It's exciting knowing you are a part of someone else's major decision. I feel excited about helping them. It feels good when students succeed and their dreams are fulfilled, and off to college they go," Mrs. Basirico said.

# Another Set of Programs?

by Stephanie Baique

When students returned for the new school year, they discovered that College-style schedules were gone. But in their place was an alternative style of block scheduling.

In this new program, most classes meet 4 times a week for 55 minutes. Periods 1-3 are 55 minutes long, the lunch periods, 4-7, are 42 minutes long, and periods 8 and 9 meet for 55 minutes.

According to Ms. Vittor, the new programs "give the students more instructional time to do more application based lessons." Ms. Vittor said that the new program would allow the teachers to teach their lessons, and then have the students apply what they learned during class time. She also pointed out that the programs "give teachers more prep time during the week."

Some students were not satisfied with the way their new programs worked out for them. According to Mr. Davidson, Queens Voc program chairman, there were students who complained about the teachers they were assigned to this year for class. "Some students don't like a teacher and want another teacher," Mr. Davidson said. But if there is only one teacher who teaches a certain subject in the student's SLC, there is no option. "One disadvantage is that there is less choice, but it applies to me as well because I have fewer options as I try to keep a student in the SLC," Mr. Davidson said. Subject teachers are limited to students in each SLC.

Seniors at Queens Voc thought that they would be dismissed from school earlier since that was how seniors' programs usually worked in previous years. Senior Aurelio Stirling thought that seniors would "come to school earlier and leave earlier." Another Queens Voc senior, Joel Tabares, said that "the new programs are better," but he too thought that he would be getting out earlier during his last year of high school. "This year, they just added more classes that are unnecessary to our schedules," Joel said.

Sophomore Steven Llorente doesn't like his schedule. "It's hard for me to get a job after school because I come out late," he said. Ruthie Vegas, a junior, said that the new program interferes with her personal schedule. "I have to pick up my little brothers after school and

I never get there on time," she said.

Ms. Vittor and her assistant principals were given two model programs designed by Mr. Davidson. One of the model programs was the original program Queens Voc followed two years ago. That program would have begun the school day at 8am and end the school day at 4:20pm.

Stephanie Robalino, a senior, has a different perspective. She said that it became a little challenging last year to keep up with all of her assignments because of the program. "I actually do complete more tasks on time this year," she said. Sophomore Vinny Santos believes that it is the time in class that is important. "I get to complete all my work on time since the classes are long," he said.

Ms. Vittor said Queens Voc programs will not continue to change every year. "We're going to try to make it work this year. I want students and teachers to really utilize 55 minute classes to engage more in their work and get more applications done that they could have done before" she said.

In the spring, discussions will be held on whether the school will keep the same schedule for next year.

## New School Website

by Manjit Singh

Mr. Garcia, Queens Voc's new art teacher, is redesigning the school's website, including a link on the homepage for each of the SLCs. The first phase, which is the homepage and the page layouts of the SLCs, went online November 29.

There are also links on the homepage to teachers and staff, with information on how to contact them. There will be links to school administrators, assistant principals/directors, and the principal. The school website also has a calendar of events at Queens Voc, and student activities such as sports and clubs.

Mr. Garcia says there are several purposes of this site. One is "to have an interactive website to help students be aware and become part of the Queens Voc life, and to excite the students and create more school spirit," he said.

Mr. Garcia is looking forward to working with his fellow teachers to get ideas for the SLC page layouts. He is interested in receiving ideas from anybody to help make the site represent Queens Voc well, he said.



# Calendar of Events

compiled by Fernando Méndez

2006



## November

- 20 **Monday**- Faculty Conferences
- 23 & 24 **Thursday - Friday** - Thanksgiving Recess - No School
- 29 **Wednesday** - Basketball Boys' Varsity Home Game vs. Newcomers at 4:30pm
- 30 **Thursday** - 2nd Marking Period Ends

## December

- 1 **Friday** - 3rd Marking Period Begins - Exploratory Shop Rotation
  - Basketball Boys' Varsity Home Game vs. Academy of American Studies at 4:30pm
- 2 & 3 **Saturday & Sunday** - SAT
- 6 **Wednesday**- Basketball Girls' Varsity Home Game vs. Frank Sinatra at 4:30pm
  - Parents Association Meeting 6:30pm- 8pm
- 8 **Friday** - Basketball Girls' Varsity Home Game vs. Grover Cleveland at 4:30pm
- 11 **Monday**- Basketball Boys' Varsity Home Game vs. Aviation at 4:30pm
- 15 **Friday** - Basketball Boys' Varsity Home Game vs. Queens HS of Teaching at 4:30pm
- 16 **Saturday**- Chanukah (Jewish Holyday)-First Day
- 18 **Monday** - Faculty Conferences
- 19 **Tuesday** - Basketball Girls' Varsity Home Game vs. Robert F. Wagner Jr. at 4:30pm
- 22 **Friday**- Holiday Luncheon for members of the Faculty Interest Committee
- 25 **Monday** - Winter Recess ( 12/25/06 -12/31/06)

2007

## January

- 1 **Monday** - New Year's Day - No School
- 10 **Wednesday** -Basketball Girls Varsity Home Game vs. Academy of American Studies at 4:30pm
- 15 **Monday**-Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
- 16 **Tuesday**- Basketball Girls' Varsity Home Game vs. Information Technology at 4:30pm
- 17 **Wednesday**- Basketball Boys' Varsity Home Game vs. Information Technology at 4:30pm
- 19 **Friday**- Basketball Girls' Varsity Home Game vs. Renaissance at 4:30pm
- 23-26 **Tuesday - Friday**- Regents Exams
- 31 **Wednesday** - 3rd Marking Period Ends, No School
  - Basketball Girls' Varsity Home Game vs. Information Technology at 4:30pm

## February

- 1 **Thursday**- Spring Term begins for high school students.
- 2 **Friday**- Basketball Boys' Varsity Home Game vs. Renaissance at 4:30pm
  - Workshop for Seniors - Making College and Career Count - cafeteria 8am
- 5 **Monday** - Basketball Boys' Varsity Home Game vs. Robert F. Wagner Jr. at 4:30pm
- 19-23 **Monday - Friday** Midwinter Recess (including Washington's Birthday)

## March

- 1 **Thursday** - Baseball & Softball season officially open
- 21 **Wednesday**- Junior Assembly: Making College and Career Count – 8am in the Auditorium

## April

- 2-10 **Monday through Tuesday**-Spring Recess (including Good Friday, Easter, andPassover), students return to school on Wednesday April 11

## May

- 28 **Monday** -Memorial Day -No School

## June

- 7 **Thursday** -Chancellor's Conference, no school
- 27 **Wednesday** - Last day for all students!!

## Walking For a Cure

by Daniel Medina

The annual Breast Cancer Walk took place this past 15th of October. Sixteen Queens Voc students and three teachers raised \$823 during this event. The hour-long walk began at Queens Borough Hall at 11am.

Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, was among the people who attended. He said the Breast Cancer Walk raises awareness and gives the victims comfort knowing that people are there to support them and help out. He added that when students attend such events, they become more

aware of the diseases that affect many people.

Students who wanted to attend the event signed up in Mr. Vega's office. They then raised money individually by asking people such as parents, teachers, and students to donate. Seniors who were missing a gym credit had the option of attending the event and completing a project to receive a gym credit.

The students who attended were: Loraine Alba, Andres Arcila, Christian Arias, Yolani Barros, Eric Bissel, Diana Espinal, Estefania Garcia, Kevin Handy, Alejandra Lopez, Macielle Marte, Raydilkys Reyes, Arielle Rios, Nimsey Rojas, Jacqueline Sepuvela,

Leidy Sierra, and Christopher Tavarez. Ms. C. Muresan, Ms. P. Muresan, and Mr. Vega participated and chaperoned the event.

After the breast cancer walk, Queens Voc students and chaperones walked to Pri-Madonna Pizzeria where they got free pizza courtesy of Ms. C. Muresan who is employed there.

"It feels good to walk for a cause, especially in a scenario where every person's appearance counts," said Leidy Sierra.



## Citywide PSAT Helps Students Prepare for College Exam

by Yessenia Perez

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Schools Chancellor Joel L. Klein introduced a new partnership between the Department of Education and The College Board. This partnership allows sophomores and juniors to take the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) free of charge. The Department of Education allocated \$1.2 million to pay for the test. All sophomores and junior, who attend a public school in New York City, were scheduled to take the PSAT this past October.

According to Mrs. Basirico, Queens Voc's college advisor, "Mayor Bloomberg wants to give high school students the opportunity to take the test so that they can be better prepared for the SAT."

Mrs. Basirico coordinated the PSAT at Queens Voc. Sophomores and juniors were scheduled to take the test on the morning of October 18, and then resume their regular schedule in the afternoon. According to Mrs. Basirico, 663 students were scheduled to take the PSAT but only 435 showed up. Because of the testing, freshmen and seniors began their day at 10am.

Jeslenny Grullon, a sophomore at Queens Voc, was among the students who took the PSAT. "It was too difficult because of the limited amount of time for each section," Jeslenny said. After she took the PSAT, she realized that she needs much more practice to do well on the SAT. "The exam was challenging but now I know what to expect on the SAT," said Luisa Rodriguez, Queens Voc junior who took the PSAT. Eva Jimenez, another Queens Voc junior, said that the test was fair, and now she knows what subjects to study for the SAT.

The PSAT is formally known as PSAT/NMSQT. NMSQT stands for National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a not-for-profit organization that conducts two academic competitions for student in their junior year. Each year 55,000 high school students are honored in the National Merit Program and the National Achievement Program. More than 10,500 of the most outstanding participants receive scholarships worth a total of \$50 million for college undergraduate study.

## Business Students: Certified Skilled

by Elbel Estrella

Business students planning to graduate with an endorsed diploma have to earn a Microsoft Office Specialist certificate, better known as MOS. In addition to satisfying the regular high school curriculum of 54 credits, business students must earn at least 2 MOS certificates, according to Mr. Persaud, a business teacher in the School

much more value than a regular high school diploma," said Ms. Newman, assistant principal and director of SES. Ms. Newman has been on a year-round campaign encouraging all business students to earn their endorsed diplomas.

"Students should take the MOS exam immediately upon completion of the one semester course when hundreds of the



Students receiving their MOS certification.

of Entrepreneurial Studies (SES).

The MOS exam is sponsored by Microsoft and is a nationwide, standardized exam. The Microsoft courses offered at Queens Voc include Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint.

Each course is one semester, and at the end of each semester students are put through a rigorous battery of DDC practice tests before taking the MOS certification exams. Each exam costs \$50, but this fee is waived for every student who opts for the Endorsed diploma. "The MOS certificate is a very recognized IT industry certificate to possess; it has

procedures learned in completing a Word processing document or an Excel spreadsheet or an Access database problem are still fresh in their minds," said Mr. Persaud

During this school year, numerous students have already successfully completed the first MOS exam. Tenth Graders Jason Castillo, Eustaquio Coyotl, Marlene Fernandez, Beatriz Gonon, William Oggeri, Sasha Rodriguez, George Serna, Monica Tito, Stephanie Trochez, Clarissa Tse, and Vincent Persaud, have completed their first MOS exam during October and November.

## College Now! Get a Head Start with College Classes

by Iris Rivera

Some students at Queens Voc are already taking college courses! These students were assigned to take these courses to enhance their writing and communication skills. The courses are sponsored by LaGuardia Community College, through a program called College Now!, a CUNY-wide program.

College Now! classes are a requirement for students who are in the business program at Queens Voc. Before their senior year, business students are required to choose either Principles of Accounting 1

(AMA 111) or Internet Video and DVD Development (CIS163) as part of their business major, to earn the college credits needed to attain a business certificate as well as their high school diploma.

"Students who are interested in either course must have a 75 on their English Language Arts Regents as well as their Mathematics A Regents," said Ms. Newman.

Business students who do not receive a 75 on their ELA Regents or Math A Regents take Accounting 1 or Internet Video and DVD Development as a high school course that counts as a

high school credit. They are also placed in College Now! classes.

Basic Writing (ENE099) is a College Now! course designed to introduce and develop college level writing proficiency through careful attention to the writing process.

According to Dr. Marion Stein, the Assistant Director of College Now! at LaGuardia, Basic Writing is not a college credit-bearing course. "Potential ENE099 students need to understand that most students begin their college careers by taking non-credit basic skills courses," said Dr. Marion Stein, "These courses cost the same as credit-bearing courses." In College Now!, the course is free.

Mr. Schimenz, a social studies and Journalism teacher at Queens Voc, teaches Basic Writing in room 347 on Mondays and Wednesday from 4-5:30 pm. There are 30 students enrolled in the course. "I see Basic Writing as a class in which students go 'back to basics' to improve their writing. It should be a voluntary class for students who really want to work to improve their writing," said Mr. Schimenz. According to Mr. Schimenz, students in the course learn how to use words more efficiently and more effectively, how to write better sentences, and how to write objectively. Although Basic Writing is not a college credit-bearing course, students receive one high school English credit.

According to Dr. Stein, College Now! offers high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take real college classes at their high school and at LaGuardia.

Dr. Stein said that one benefit of taking a college class is earning college credit (excluding ENE099), which often is transferable throughout CUNY, SUNY, and many private colleges. Another benefit is taking college classes that are free.

"Juniors start with the Gateway courses, which prepare them for more challenging college-level courses and help them develop the writing skills they need to succeed," said Dr. Stein, "Successful completion of Gateway courses such as ENE099 can lead to taking more challenging courses that are credit-bearing."

General Psychology (SSY101) is an introductory course in the science of psychology and the research methods of psychology. It is a 3-credit course that also earns students one science high school credit. Four students from the School of Entrepreneurial Studies at Queens Voc, along with other students from nearby schools, take this class at LaGuardia on

Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:40-5pm.

"Psychology is the key to marketing. It is very important in business," said Ms. Newman. "It enables you to work with people in fields such as advertising, marketing, sales, public relations, and office management."

According to Dr. Stein, campus classes allow students to take courses that are not offered in high schools.

Another College Now! course is Elementary Statistics I (MAT120), which teaches the fundamental concepts and computational techniques of elementary statistics. Students study the measures of central tendency, standard deviation, percentiles, regression, and correlation. This class is also a credit-bearing course of three college credits and takes place at LaGuardia on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40-5pm.

In the spring, cosmetology students, who are part of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, can take college-level courses which are credit-bearing courses of three college credits at LaGuardia Community College.

Introduction to Business (AMM103) is an introductory course designed to acquaint students with the role of business in our economy, the forms of organization, and the various business functions such as management, personnel, marketing, and finance.

Business Law (AMM110) is a course which introduces students to various areas of law. Students learn the concept of legal contracts, the judicial systems, lawsuits, and criminal and civil law.

Introduction to the Travel Industry (AMA101) presents an overview of the travel and tourism industry. It explores the structure, products, and services of travel suppliers and travel agencies.

Introduction to Computers and their Applications (CIS100) is an introductory course in which students can learn the basics of the computer field and how computers work. This course is also designed to teach students how to use application software packages on microcomputers.

Ms. Newman said that students who would like to take those courses need at least a sixty-five on their Regents scores or a cumulative average of seventy-five in social studies and English. "Students can take a college course, but they must qualify," said Ms. Newman.

Students interested in taking a college course for the spring semester should see Ms. Newman in room 413 for more information.

# Who are our New Teachers?

by Rayvan Walker

Some students are happy to not have the same teachers year after year. They like to see new faces and learn from different teachers. Each year, some teachers leave and the principal of Queens Voc, Ms. Vittor, hires a fresh new batch of teachers to replace them.

This year, Queens Voc has 13 new teachers: Ms. Adams, Ms. Gallagher, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Cartaya, Ms. Schleich, Mr. Stefanidis, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Bohr, Mr. David, Ms. Demetrius, Mr. Guerrero, Ms. Hector, and Ms. Khouri. Six of the new teachers will be covered in this edition of *Vocational Voice*, and seven will be covered in the next edition.

Ms. Adams is the new guidance counselor for the Advance program and SCEET. She has a bachelor's in English, a master's in Secondary Education and a master's in school counseling. "I imagined the school to be pretty much how it is, except sometimes it can get pretty chaotic," she said. This is Ms. Adams' first school. She was excited, she said, when she was hired as a guidance counselor. "The teachers were nice and helpful, but most of all the students were respectful," she said.

Mr. MacDonald is a new teacher in the School of Exploration and Discovery. He is teaching an English Ramp-Up program, and 11th grade English. He graduated from Boston College with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He taught at Media and Technology Charter High School in Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. MacDonald, who never worked at a vocational school before, said he enjoys working at Queens Voc and he "looks forward to helping students here move through high school and either start a job in their major or move on to college." Queens Voc is the first school he has worked at that has smaller learning communities. "It helps to have a personal relationship with each student," he said.

Mr. Cartaya is a new teacher in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies. Originally from Miami, Florida, he graduated from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois with a bachelor's degree in English Education. For the past two years, he has taught at Long

Island City High School. In Queens Voc, Mr. Cartaya teaches freshman, sophomore, and junior English. Mr. Cartaya enjoys the structure of the school and the training in skills offered to the students. He was excited, he said, when Ms. Vittor hired him.

Ms. Schleich is in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies and teaches Environmental Science, Earth Science, and Resource Room. Ms. Schleich was at Queens Voc during the summer but did not get to see the students in their shops. She enjoys seeing the shop classes now she said, and likes teaching at a vocational school because "the students are unique and they can show off their talents in more than one area because they take academic and career-oriented classes." Ms. Schleich said she is excited because "students at a vocational school are able to develop skills that will help them in the real world." She remembers an incident when she was walking in the hallway and her backpack opened and all the papers fell out. Some students stopped and helped her pick up her papers. That showed her that Queens Voc students "care and have respect." To Ms. Schleich, respect is important in her classroom.

Mr. Stefanidis, another new teacher at Queens Voc, teaches Global History in the Advance program and is the advisor for the senior class yearbook. He has a bachelor's degree in History and a master's degree in Education. Before teaching at Queens Voc, he taught at Newtown High School. Mr. Stefanidis likes Queens Voc better because "Newtown was a much larger school. There were many more students and teachers, this made getting to know everyone impossible." He said Queens Voc "allows for much more concentrated focus on each student and closer collaborative relationship with other teachers." Mr. Stefanidis said he is a supporter of higher standards and believes that the smaller learning communities help a lot. His goals are "to raise school spirit and spark interest in school-related functions," he said.

Mr. Bohr, a new teacher in the School of Exploration and Discovery teaches Math A, Intermediate Algebra, and Advanced Placement Statistics. He has a master's degree in Science and a master's degree in Math Education. This is Mr. Bohr's first high school experience. "It was hard to tell what it would be like," he said. In the evening, Mr. Bohr teaches at

Touro College. He has been teaching there for the past 5 years. He would like to organize a chess club at Queens Voc on Fridays, when he does not teach at Touro College.

## Life, Camera, Action...

by Gaochao Huang

The yearbook committee led by Mr. Stefanidis is working to capture the seniors' best memories. Mr. Stefanidis is a new social studies teacher at Queens Voc. "If the efforts of the yearbook staff matches the enthusiasm that they have exhibited so far, then the Queens Voc seniors can expect a great yearbook," said Mr. Stefanidis.

More than 25 seniors are working on the yearbook, bringing to the yearbook effort their own special skills. Terel Watson, a senior electronics major said that "Since I was not scheduled to take journalism with Mr. Schimenz, I found another way I could do publishing." According to Terel, he is skilled at digital photography and computer design. "Mr. Stefanidis seems like a very organized individual who is very focus on having a successful yearbook," Terel said.



Yearbook committee up for a challenging year.

Mr. Garcia, an art and business teacher, has offered to help with the layout of the yearbook. "I am looking forward to working on the layout and making the experience an enjoyable one for seniors on the yearbook," he said.

The yearbook committee meets every Thursday after school. According to Mr. Stefanidis, most of the work will be done online on a yearbook website the publisher provided. The members will work mostly from school computers and occasionally from home computers.

There will be three sections to the yearbook. Section one will have all of the student portraits, school staff, sport teams and clubs. The second section will contain student

profiles, and the third section will have memories of the fun activities the seniors will have this year.

The yearbook will be 96 full color pages. The submission of the yearbook to Jostens, the publisher, will be incremental. Section one is due by mid-December, the second section is due mid-January and the third section is due before the end of February.

According to Mr. Vega, the yearbook should be distributed to the seniors by the end of May. Only seniors who paid their dues will be given a yearbook.

Want to help on the yearbook? See Mr. Stefanidis

The theme of the yearbook will be Life, Camera, and Action.

The following are members of the yearbook committee: Bristy Ahmed, Ruth Arteaga, Tricia Banos, Erika Bernal, Mink Carrillo, Stephanie Cerqueda, Anadia Diaz, Linda Dutan, Denise Espinal, Carmen Florentino, Yuri Gomez, Luisa Irala, Alejandra Lopez, Shacha Medal, Gabriele Pazan, Iris Rivera, Stephanie Robalino, Nimsey Rojas, Andrea Romero, Stephanie Rosario, Ebony Strachan, Christopher Tavarez, Madeline Urena, Anna-Kay Vaz, Rayvan Walker, Terel Watson, Elizabeth Zambrano.

different teachers, depending on their areas of need. The tutoring sessions are planned by the teachers who tutor. The teachers have access to resources online and in their respective SLC director's office.

From the beginning of the year through October 18, the focus was on PSAT preparation for juniors and sophomores, and SAT preparation for seniors. Since then the focus has been on Regents preparation. Ms. Newman, the director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, said that students are being targeted by the SLC directors and teachers if they need a Regents exam to graduate. Students who passed all their Regents exams and are up-to-date with their classes are tutored in their shop classes for certification and licensing exams.

Ms. Newman said these sessions are designed to help the students get the grades and credits they need to graduate. "it's not a class, it's not a lesson, it's help," she said. Ms. Vittor concurred. "The students are not graded on these sessions and no credit is given, they're supposed to assist you, they'll help you do better in the class or on the Regents you're taking tutoring for."

Ms. Quartuccio, a senior cosmetology teacher, tutors cosmetology students for their Noctee and State Board Exams, if they don't need academic tutoring. She gets her tutoring topics from the Cosmetologist's State Board Review book, and gets any technology she might need such as videotapes from the director's office. "I think the students are happy to go to their academic classes so they can do better in their Regents, and those who already passed have a good opportunity to pass their certification exams," she said.

Some students believe that the tutoring sessions are helping. Christopher Tavarez, a senior in plumbing, said, "It helps me to understand things I didn't understand before, and I feel more confident about passing the Regents." Francis Merino, a sophomore in business, believes the sessions will help him pass the US History Regents in June. "I think I'm going to do better on the Regents because of tutoring."

Other students, however, complain that they're not getting the help they should be getting. "I got assigned to a math tutoring class," said Elizabeth Zambrano, a senior cosmetology student, "but I need help in US history. The class is in my schedule so I have to report there, but I don't need help in that subject."

Students who want help in a subject can get it during tutoring Fridays, said Ms. Newman, all they have to do is ask.

# Life in the Digital Age

by Diomedes Gonzalez

Manhattan's Jacob Javits Center is home to many popular events. Digital Life, an annual showcase held by the leading manufacturers in the computer and electronic industry, is where the leading manufacturers unveil their latest products.

On October 13, Mr. Cintron accompanied 40 C-Tech students to the Javits Center for the 3rd annual Digital Life expo to see firsthand the products that will be out in stores in the near-future. The purpose of the trip, according to Mr. Cintron, was "to allow our students to see the latest innovations within the computer/electronic industry, and to allow them to meet the manufacturers and professionals who work in that industry."

Companies such as Sony, Intel, ATI, General Electric, Microsoft, Dell, Blazing Games, Bluetooth SIG, Electronics Arts, and Kodak were represented at the Javits Center. New gaming systems, cell phones, computers, video games, media devices, portable gear, and automobile technology are just a few of the new product types on display. "There were presentations from Electronic Arts discussing their future in media, such as TV and movies," said Kacy James, a senior C-Tech student.

At the convention, the Best of Show award, according to PC magazine, was given to Sony PlayStation 3, with a second award of Best Game Hardware. The Sony PlayStation 3 was one of the most sought out products at the Javits Center.

## History's Alive in Cosmo Class

by Diomedes Gonzalez

When Julius Caesar conquered Britain, he used a strategy known as "divide and conquer." That's a lesson taught in...Ms. Quartuccio's cosmetology class?

While divide and conquer is a military strategy begun by a figure from a Global History class, Ms. Quartuccio's lesson incorporated global history into a cosmetology lesson.

Ms. Quartuccio taught the divide and conquer approach to junior cosmo students in room 321, on November 15. "In class I was doing a lesson on up-dos and wanted to show the students how to deal with a lot of hair," said Ms. Quartuccio. In

cosmo, when a client asks for his or her hair to be done, the cosmetologist can be perplexed by how much hair a client has. This is where dividing and conquering comes in. Ms. Quartuccio taught her students to separate the hair into sections, which will allow cosmetologists to do their work faster and more efficiently, and work more comfortably.

[Editor's note to teachers: if you have an interesting interdisciplinary lesson you'd like featured in an article, please let us know.]

## Finding Jobs After School

by Heriberto Velazquez

Many students try to get jobs but are turned down, yet some teens who have jobs know which places are willing to give teens an opportunity to work after school.

Ms. Spallone, a cosmetology teacher in Queens Voc., helps students get jobs in her role as co-op coordinator. "I try to get students internships, co-ops, and jobs in fields related to their major," she said.

According to Ms. Spallone, to get a job through the co-op program, students must pass all classes, have working papers if under 18, and must have a resume ready.

Ms. Spallone is one person students can go to for job opportunities. Their friends can be other sources for jobs.

According to senior Luis Menacho, "It is hard to get a job if you are under 18 with working papers and even harder if you don't have working papers." Luis works at a restaurant in lower Manhattan as a part time busboy/food runner. According to Luis, it was hard for him to find a job anywhere.

Joel Tabares, a telemarketer in Jackson Heights, also had a hard time finding a job. Joel applied to many stores but they turned him down because he was under 18. Luckily for Joel, his friend was able to tell him about an opening. "Job opportunities don't come up that often and when they do, they disappear fast," said Joel.

Both Joel and Luis said that restaurants, delis, and supermarket positions are just about the only jobs that teens under 18 can get.

David Stanojev and Waqqas Hussain, both seniors, were turned down by many employers. "I applied to many major retail stores, big restaurants, and delis but all of them said no because I only wanted to work on weekends

and I wasn't 18 years old," said David, who believes that the only way to get a job is through internships. "They give you a place to learn and if the employer sees that you are getting good, he will offer you a job," he said. Waqqas has applied to many stores and restaurants. "I am picky about where I want to work and what I start working as," said Waqqas. David said that there are many opportunities to get a job in restaurants and grocery stores but he hasn't taken them because he doesn't want to work everyday.



## Honorary Vets

by Jerry Chang

While city offices and suburban schools were closed on Friday, November 10 for Veteran's Day observance, city schools were open.

Veterans Day, November 11, is a day to celebrate the soldiers who fought for us, with parades and moments of silence for these heroes. The original plan called for a day with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business at 11am.

A Congressional Act was approved on May 3, 1938, making November 11 a legal holiday, to be dedicated to the cause of world peace. This "Armistice Day" was set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but after World War II and the Korean War, it was renamed "Veterans Day."

"Veteran's Day is a day we show how much we appreciate the soldiers for risking their lives for our country," said senior Peter Serraty.

"On Veteran's Day I call a friend of mine," said Mr. Mugan, who teaches Virtual Enterprise. "I thank him for fighting for our country. He fought in Vietnam and described it as a brutal and horrible place. I also call my father to check up on him and thank him, for he was in the Korean War."

"Every year I teach my class about Veterans Day," said Ms. Salih, a social studies teacher. "We talked about the flower of the Veterans, the poppy flower a red petal flower that grows in the fields of Flanders, in Belgium, where most of the fighting took place during World War I," she said

# COMMENTARIES

## No Time to Work

by Estefania Garcia

Most seniors at Queens Vocational and Technical High School are getting out of school after ninth period. This leaves them with little time for internships and jobs.

Mr. Holder, a guidance counselor at Queens Voc, said, "We have a new schedule in place this year from period 1 to period 9. Seniors come out later because classes start later and end later." According to Mr. Davidson, the school's program chairman, hardly any seniors come out early this year.

Seniors should be allowed to leave as early as the seniors from previous years, when they started school at 7:35am and were usually out by 2:30pm. The school is not giving seniors enough time for internships or jobs. Many business and cosmetology students are struggling to meet the 60-hour work requirement for graduation.

This problem can be resolved by changing the schedule back to 42 minutes per class, Monday through Friday. The earlier we start the earlier we will get out, which would enable students to have time for internships and jobs.

## No Time to Eat

by Jeffrey Truong

Getting into the cafeteria during the lunch periods has been a big problem. So has getting food once inside.

Further, crowds in the hall interfere with people passing by.

Students wait outside the cafeteria for a long time because the cafeteria workers have to clean up the mess left by students the previous lunch period. Students leave garbage on tables, seats, and all over the floor, which makes it harder for the cafeteria worker.

Then, students wait inside the cafeteria because the cafeteria workers who just cleaned the tables have to get the food ready.

Another problem is that the combination of students exiting the cafeteria and students lining up to enter causes a traffic jam in the hallways. Students and teachers alike can't seem to get by between classes.

Mr. Vela will soon be meeting with the principal, school safety committee, and cafeteria workers to try to resolve this.

The students and the adults can take some initiative too, to help with the chaos and by making sure the students clean up after themselves. Student behavior is the reason for the wait outside and inside the cafeteria. If the students want to get inside and get their food faster, they will throw out their garbage so the cafeteria workers have more time getting the food ready instead of trying to clean up after student slob.

## No Time to Spare

by Raiza Izquierdo

On the first day on school on September, seniors received their programs for their final year of high school. Many looked forward to taking the bare minimum of classes and getting out of school early. But that wasn't to be.

"Why are we taking classes we don't need to graduate?" was heard instead. Students sought answers from teachers, guidance counselors, and the principal, as to why they had to take a fourth year of math or science, tutoring, and college classes.

In past years many seniors got out of school early. Most dropped the "extra" classes, didn't take college classes, and tutoring didn't exist as part of students' programs. Most seniors now get out period 9, the last period of the day, at 3:47pm. These late classes interfere with their jobs, internships, and sports teams. Several years ago, school started earlier at 7:35am. That would allow students with these extra classes to get out earlier, at 3:17pm.

Ms. Vittor said it was decided that to help our students meet higher standards they would take more classes related to their major. These classes will benefit students who are going to college and the college classes could earn the students college credits. Ms. Vittor said, "We need to show our students that we know they can do better," she said.

Some students don't see this in such a positive way and many aren't interested in college. These classes interfere with students' lives outside of school because the students get out of school late. Each senior should be able to decide whether or not to take the extra courses the school offers, depending on their plans after high school. If we have been taught well, we would be able to make intelligent decisions in our best interests.

# Editorials

## Graffiti is Vandalism, Nothing More

The day before Thanksgiving, students discovered as they approached the school that a search of students entering the building was going on. Many believed it was about cell phones. It turns out that it was an attempt to find permanent markers that are frequently used for graffiti, and to find samples of graffiti in students' notebooks that could help the administration find the vandals who have been defacing our school.

Graffiti has been appearing a lot lately and the vandal(s) have gone so far as to declare that they "can't stop me." Students should find this offensive. We should look out for Queens Voc. After all, it's our school too. We support the efforts of our administrators to root out vandals. We'd like our fellow students to help.

Rewards up to \$500 are available for graffiti vandals. While it's popular to deride "snitches," it shouldn't be popular to deface our school and it shouldn't be considered acceptable to know who's doing it and remain silent. "All that's necessary for evil to triumph..." You get the point.

## We Want Your Opinions

We are interested in your views of our first edition of the school newspaper. What do you like? What don't you like? What else should we cover? Sure, you can even find mistakes. You can let us know about those too. But we'd like to know how we can make the paper better. Your input and constructive criticism are important.

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

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



Mr. Schimenz  
Main Office

## Help our Hectic Hallway

by Kacy James

When the bell rings signaling an end to one lunch period and the start of another, hundreds of students block the second floor hallway in the new wing.

Many of these students are exiting the cafeteria, many are lining up to get inside, and other students and teachers are simply trying to get from one class to another.

"There is not enough space in the hallway to accommodate students entering and leaving the lunchroom, Assistant Principal Vela said, "and we don't have enough personnel to effectively supervise the area."

Plans to regulate the crowded hallway will be discussed soon and might include a requirement that students exiting the cafeteria go immediately to staircase B rather than add to the congestion.

## Vocational Voice

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## Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH  
SCHOOL

Denise Vittor, Principal

At Queens Vocational & Technical High School we finally have the facilities we deserve – a new cafeteria, gym, library and ("Shop") CTE classrooms. As a community we fought long and hard to get this new addition, and dealt with the construction and all of it's inconveniences. Our building is something to be proud of and appreciated. As a community we need to accept responsibility for keeping our building clean and in working order. The building is our home for 7 – 8 hours each day and we should respect ourselves enough to demand a clean building. With the expectation of a clean building comes the responsibility of doing our part to keep it that way.

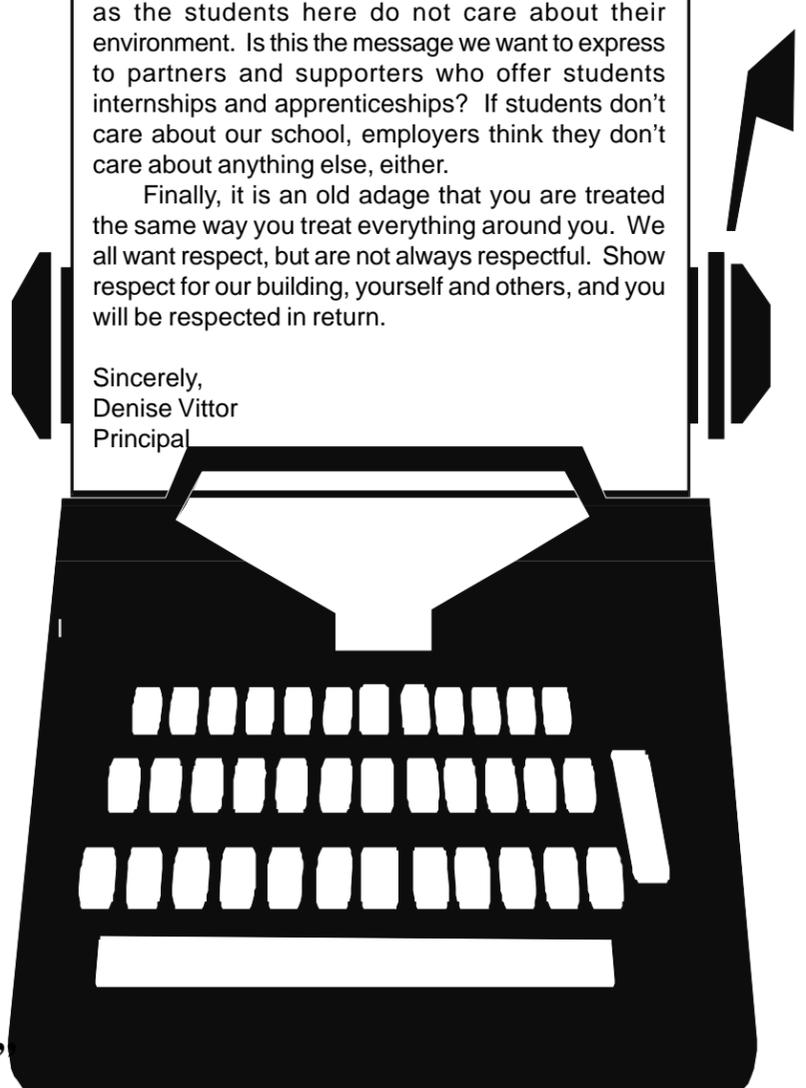
I walk through the halls and often pick up trash that was left on the floor. Why was it left there? Someone did not care enough to throw it away properly. Shame on them! I'll drop by the cafeteria and see students drop food and leave their dirty trays on the tables. Some students will dirty the walls and tables during lunch and expect others to clean it. Shame on them again! Would they do this in their homes? For those of you who trash the cafeteria the consequences of your actions affect the entire building – all of the students after you are left to eat in a dirty lunchroom. Each student needs to pick up and clean up their own trash, so that others can have the same level of comfort and cleanliness the first lunch period has.

Many of us have noticed the rash of unsightly graffiti over the last few weeks. Writing on public buildings is not art, it is VANDALISM and it is a CRIME. All of us should be outraged that our building is being defaced and vandalized, forcing us to "live" in an ugly building all day. We need to see that graffiti in our building sends messages to our partners (such as the Metropolitan Transit Authority, DeVry Institute, etc) who visit frequently – messages such as the students here do not care about their environment. Is this the message we want to express to partners and supporters who offer students internships and apprenticeships? If students don't care about our school, employers think they don't care about anything else, either.

Finally, it is an old adage that you are treated the same way you treat everything around you. We all want respect, but are not always respectful. Show respect for our building, yourself and others, and you will be respected in return.

Sincerely,  
Denise Vittor  
Principal

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



# Freshmen's First Impressions

by Anadia Diaz

What were your feelings about Queens Voc when you first came here? We asked students from the ninth grade school of Exploratory and Discovery how they first felt when they arrived.

## The Questions:

1. What made you decide to come to this school?
2. Right now you are in Exploratory; have you decided what you want to major in? If yes, Why?
3. What was your first impression of Queens Vocational & Technical High School?



**Nick Cabrera**

1. I came to this school because there's a lot of girls in Cosmo and I like the EI program.
2. Yes, I am going to choose EI because it's fun and easy.
3. My first impression of this school was boring, long, and small but it's worth it because there's a lot of girls.



**Gustavo Ramirez**

1. I wanted to come to this school because I wanted to learn about electrical installation, also known as EI.
2. Yes, I've decided to major in EI.
3. I thought this school was ok and I was looking forward to learning new things.



**Rahlovel Livingston**

1. The cosmetology program is the reason I decided to come to this school.
2. Cosmetology because I have a deep passion for doing hair.
3. When I first came to this school I thought it was big, but at the same time beautiful and full of opportunities.



**Mohammed Begum**

1. A lot of my friends recommended this school and it had good options for me.
2. I've decided to take plumbing because I am good at it.
3. It looked small from the outside, it was neat, and it looked like I was going to like it.



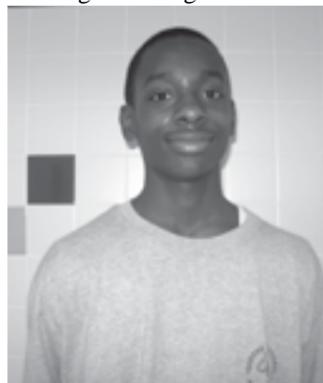
**Alexandra Mohamed**

1. I decided to come to this school because I was interested in the cosmetology program.
2. I am going to choose cosmetology because I enjoy doing hair and nails.
3. My first impression of this school was that it was good and the students were friendly. The school itself wasn't big but I still liked it.



**Lisbeth Collado**

1. I wanted to come to this school because I heard it's a really good school. A lot of people that I know come here and also told me to come, so I decided to give a try.
2. Yes, I am going to choose cosmetology because it looks like it's going to be really fun.
3. When I first came I really liked it because of the way people treated me.



**James Walker**

1. I decided to come to this school because it teaches you a trade.
2. I am going to choose electrical installation because I always wanted to work at people's homes. I don't want to work behind a desk.
3. My first impression of this school was "Wow! There's a lot of Spanish people in this place. I'm like the only black guy."



**Alyssa Morales**

1. I decided to come to this school because it had a lot of options. I found the trades the school offered helpful and interesting.
2. I've decided to take business because it would help me in the real world with money and other things.
3. It's a good school and I know I will be able to accomplish my goals.

## Simple Steps on the Road to Success

by Manjit Singh

There are various ways to succeed in school. Many students have their own ideas about how to succeed. Generally, students who succeed do so through hard work.

While trying counts, the purpose of trying is to succeed. Note that there are many ways to try something different if you find yourself not being successful.

Some simple suggestions may help:

- Be on time to school and classes to show teachers that you care about their lessons.
- Do all homework from all classes.
- Attend all classes and minimize your absences from school.
- Don't give in to peer-pressure or do things you shouldn't do.
- Study at home to enhance your knowledge.
- Don't settle for anything but your best. Remember, if you settle for good enough, you'll never get better!
- Study for tests because that's how you demonstrate you've learned.
- Learn from your mistakes.
- Don't give up easily because life isn't as easy as you want it to be.
- Make education a priority, not an option.



**Jessica Azcona**

1. I wanted to come to this school because none of my brothers are in this school and also because I wanted to learn about cosmetology.
2. Cosmetology, because it is really fun to do and you also get to know other people in this business.
3. It was a really good school and the teachers weren't mean.



**Brigitte Diaz**

1. My sister Elizabeth Almonte came to this school and she played on the softball team all 4 years. That inspired me to come to this school and play softball.
2. Yes, I am going to choose business because I find all the other shop classes either too girly like cosmo or too dirty like plumbing.
3. At first I thought it was boring but then I got to know more people so now it's better.



**Christina Boston**

1. I decided to come to this school because I wanted to know more about cosmetology and I heard it was a good school from a lot of my friends.
2. Cosmetology because it interests me and I am very good with hair.
3. I thought it was a really nice school because teachers and the staff showed they cared about the students. I found that interesting and unusual.



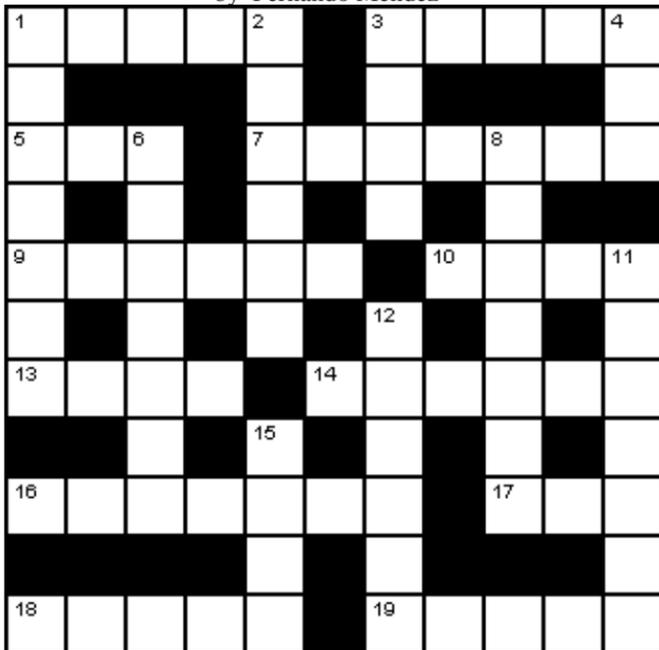
**Roy Aranzamendi**

1. I wanted to come to this school for Electrical Installation and the baseball team.
2. Yes, I'm going to choose EI to learn things I need to know for my career. I want to build houses and install electrical jobs. I believe in EI I am going to learn enough to get a job straight out of high school.
3. I thought the school was boring and dull but it became fun after.

Welcome  
to  
Queens Voc

# Crossword Puzzle

by Fernando Méndez



Across

- 1. African equine
- 3. Artery
- 5. Part of a circle
- 7. Fa
- 9. Embellished
- 10. Break suddenly
- 13. Plant support
- 14. Lumber
- 16. Household implement
- 17. Make a mistake
- 18. Awful
- 19. Cacophonous

Down

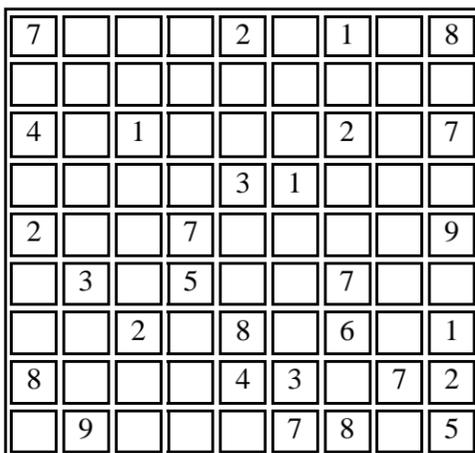
- 1. Avid
- 2. Shrewd
- 3. Slightly open
- 4. Atmosphere
- 6. Yield
- 8. Well-founded
- 11. Depict
- 12. Stringed instrument
- 15. Catch sight of

# Sudoku Puzzle

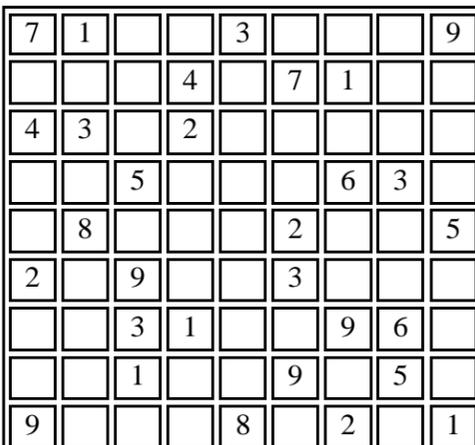
by Gaochao Huang

These Puzzles are generated by using Sudoku Assistenten. It is free download from [hyyp://www.sudoku.frihost.net/](http://hyyp://www.sudoku.frihost.net/).

Easy



Hard



# Music Reviews

by Jelissa Peña

## Fergie *The Dutchess*

Fergie, one of the lead singers from the Black Eyed Peas, has come out with her own debut album, *The Dutchess*, which was released on September 19. "London Bridge," her top song on the album, has been in the Billboard's top 100 songs, attaining the number 1 spot in just 3 weeks, as well as in the iTunes top 100. The rhythm of the song is amazing and unique and combines well with the lyrics.

*The Dutchess* features a variety of music genres, other than rock. This album has 13 great songs. It includes songs that will make you want to go out and buy the CD. Even though the album may not include rap or reggae, it is still a good album.

"Bad Girls Don't Cry" is another enjoyable track on the album. The beat starts off slowly in this love song, and then slowly converts into a faster rhythm. The tone changes from sad to mad, which defines the person's changing emotions.

"Finally" was the best song. It relates a lot to those teenagers who are having love problems. The rhythm is very romantic and the beat is captivating. I really liked this album and had fun listening to it.

## Citizen Cope *Every Waking Moment*

A man who is barely known, Clarence Greenwood, known as Citizen Cope, has songs that are very unique. His songs resemble music from the '80s. The album is okay, but I'm not really a fan of his music. It's somewhat like R&B, except it has a different type of flow with a funky, yet slow rhythm.

One song that is most captivating is "Every Waking Moment." It's a really good song that deals with love and its challenges. "More Than it Seems" is one of the best songs. It relates to the ups and downs of love. The song reminded me of that 112 song, "Someone to Hold," that I enjoy listening to.

## Evanescence *The Open Door*

One of the hottest rock groups, Evanescence, has a new hit, "Call Me When You're Sober," that has been playing on

a lot of radio stations. The lyrics and rhythm are emotional because the song relates to a lot of people's personal experiences.

Evanescence is one of my favorite rock bands. They sing with passion, and their lyrics are universally understood. "My Immortal" is an enjoyable song with soothing sound and peaceful lyrics.

While Rock may not be as popular with teenagers as it once was, some people enjoy listening to rock. Evanescence has many good songs and their lyrics are very emotional.

## Pharell *In My Mind*

Pharell is back with a great new album, *In My Mind*, which has 13 tracks, all with different tones. All his songs are rap. Some songs are fast, slow, loud, or low.

"Can I Have It Like That," featuring Gwen Stefani, is one of the best songs on the album. The beat changes from slow to fast. The lyrics are soft and passionate. In 2003, Pharell's music wasn't all that, but now that he's back, and his music is better than ever.

Even though I am not really a big fan of rap, "Best Friend" is very realistic, deep, and has a rapid beat. Many people will enjoy this song and it may become the top song on Pharell's album.

"Young Girl I Really Like You," featuring Jay Z, one of the best rap artists, has a funky beat. The lyrics are very detailed and the song is very relaxing.

## Shareefa *Point Of No Return*

Shareefa has come out with her first album, *Point Of No Return*. "Cry No More" is a song that is full of anger. It has a very harsh beat and a powerful tone.

*Point Of No Return* was released on October 24. Shareefa's album was number 25 on a different category of the Billboard Chart, known as the top 200 albums.

Shareefa's songs relate to those of Mary J. Blige, one of them being "No More Drama." Their songs are alike because of the way their songs are expressed and most of them deal with the same type of problems. These songs are very emotional and contain a loud lyrical rhythm.

This is a very good album. "Need A Boss," which features Ludacris, is one of the album's most played songs on the radio. This was the song that brought her into popularity, with its fascinating lyrics and fast beats.

# Latest Gizmos

by Denise Espinal

## T-Mobile Sidekick 3

Many people are quite familiar with the Sidekick and Sidekick 2. We often see Sidekick owners walking around with their heads down, eyes glued to the screen, and fingers glued to the keyboard. If you can't get enough of your Sidekick, then you won't be able to live without the T-Mobile Sidekick 3, an improved, upgraded phone. The Sidekick 3 lets you stay connected through talk, text, e-mail, and IM. It also has a built-in MP3 player and a camera with 1.3 mega pixels.

The T-Mobile Sidekick 3 is sleeker and lighter, weighing 7 ounces and is 5.1 x 2.3 x 0.9 inches. It has a lithium ion battery with up to 4.5 hours talk time and 3 days standby time. The new Sidekick supports three major instant messenger clients: MSN, Yahoo, and AIM, and it allows internet browsing. The Sidekick 3 has stereo Bluetooth technology and a built-in QWERTY keypad. There's a mini SD (security digital) memory slot so that there isn't a limit to the amount of pictures or music that can be stored on the phone.

The Sidekick 3 is an all-purpose phone that really stands out in the crowd. It's only available for T-Mobile customers. T-Mobile customers pay less than those switching over to T-Mobile, but the price ranges from \$300 to \$350.

## Ipod Nano

The Ipod Nano has been completely remastered. It has a thinner design that comes in 5 stylish colors: gray, pink, red, green, and blue. Before, there was only the option of either a 2GB (500 songs) or a 4GB (1000 songs). The Ipod Nano also comes in an 8GB (2000 songs). It also has an enhanced battery with up to 24 hours of battery life instead of the usual 6-hour battery life.

The Ipod Nano has a height of 3.5 inches, a width of 1.6 inches, a depth of 0.26 inches and a weight of 1.41 ounces. The Ipod Nano can hold up to 25,000 viewable pictures with a 40% brighter display. Besides these excellent features, the Ipod Nano also provides useful extras such as a calendar, a stopwatch, a phonebook, addresses, websites, and a place to keep notes and games. Depending on the model, the prices start at \$149.



# Sophomore Shop Profiles



by Volodymyr Sulyk

At Queens Voc, students have an advantage over students in regular academic schools since they take vocational classes. These vocational classes benefit students because they get a chance to tryout a career while still in high school. *Vocational Voice* has traditionally highlighted students in each major selected by their vocation teachers as outstanding. In this edition, we spotlight some outstanding sophomores.

## Questions:

1. What interested you to choose this major?
2. What have you learned in your major so far that you think is most important?
3. What have you learned in your major so far that you think is least important?
4. What are you planning to do after graduating from Queens Vocational & Technical High School?
5. Have you ever considered that you might have a greater chance of succeeding in life because you attended Queens Voc and picked this major?
6. Do you believe that the teachers have prepared you for the challenges that await you in the future? How?
7. Would you like to add anything else about your major?

### Electronics: Mr. Raushan

#### Rahman Pervej

- 1) "I like to fix electronic equipment and computers. I like the Robotics program."
- 2) "The most important thing I learned is to set up circuits and evaluate the values of series and parallel circuits."
- 3) "The least important thing that I learned is the basics, like electrons, protons, and neutrons."
- 4) "After high school, I will try to get into college and study electronics."
- 5) "I will be able to get a better job."
- 6) [Student didn't answer.]
- 7) "I like working on computers instead of the little devices in my shop."



### Computer Technology: Mr. David

#### Islam Fahim



- 1) "I am interested in computer technology because I don't like hands on work. I am interested in computers."
- 2) "I find everything important."
- 3) [Student didn't answer.]
- 4) "I will work a C-Tech job part time and go study in college."
- 5) "Yes, because if I go through this course, I will get a better job. Plus going to college with a computer background will help me study computer technology in depth."
- 6) "Yes, classroom experience and this will help me in the future."
- 7) "My teacher is really fun. My teacher makes it educational and fun at the same time."

### Cosmetology: Mrs. D'Onofrio

#### Stacy Asencio

- 1) "When I was little, I used to practice doing hair on my Barbie dolls and on my mother's hair."
- 2) "I think everything is important."
- 3) "I think everything is important."
- 4) "Yes, I want to open up a hair salon and go to college."
- 5) "I don't have to go to college because I already have some knowledge in cosmetology."



- 6) "My teacher showed all the steps. She explains step-by-step and corrects anything I am doing wrong."
- 7) "It's important to have good experience and it's a good program to have."

### Business: Mr. Alohan

#### Joana Garcia

- 1) "I wanted to learn about accounting."
- 2) "I know how to use Microsoft Word more."
- 3) "I think everything is important."
- 4) "Go to college and study Business Management."
- 5) "Yes, because the teachers teach me more stuff than other schools and I am ahead of them."
- 6) "Yes, because the teachers give us actual letters that business people write."
- 7) "It is a lot of typing."



### Electrical Installation: Mr. Abreu

#### Josue Manzanares

- 1) "I find it cool, wiring up circuits and working with Con Edison. It's a cool job."
- 2) "The most important thing I learned is never mess with electricity. Be careful, electricity is very dangerous."
- 3) "I think everything is important."
- 4) "I'm hoping to get a job in Local 3 or in the MTA."
- 5) "My teachers are good and I learned a lot. I feel confident."
- 6) "Yes. They don't let the easy stuff slide. My teacher makes me work for my grade. Although it's annoying, it benefits me."
- 7) "I like to really work as an electrician. It's my goal."



### Electrical Installation: Mr. Mendez

#### Ivana Nunez

- 1) "I wasn't interested in anything else. EI interested me because it was easy for me to understand. I understood the circuits. I also like hands-on work."
- 2) "Everything is important, such as circuitry and parts of the circuit. It's hard to focus on one thing. EI students need to focus on everything."
- 3) "Everything is important since each step is built on the previous topic."
- 4) "I want to become aeronautical engineer at Vaughn College."
- 5) "Yes, every student has advantage because we graduate with a certification."
- 6) "Mr. Mendez teaches what you must know and teaches everything you need for the future."



### Plumbing: Mr. McCarthy

#### Brandon Carcano

- 1) "I wanted to go to Queens Voc because of this program. I wanted to do something with my life. It was a choice between electrical installation and plumbing. I picked plumbing because they make good money."
- 2) "The most important thing is to know how to measure and cut the pipes for a job, threading the pipe carefully so you don't hurt anybody else."
- 3) "Everything is important."
- 4) "I plan to get into the union and become a master plumber. I need to work up to it."



- 5) "Yes, I don't think many schools teach these kinds of programs, they teach basic academic subjects. In this school we get hands-on work."
- 6) "Yes, my teacher showed me how to be safe and how to help people when I get a job."
- 7) "It's a good trade, it helps with my skills. It's a good program."

## Restaurant Reviews



by David Stanojev

If Eggo comes to mind when you hear waffles, you should try Petite Abeille, located in Tribeca, it will change your concept of a waffle. Their Belgian-cooking flair is evident in their Dame Blanche Waffle, a plump, crispy, luscious waffle baked top perfection and topped with vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce. It's a flawless dessert that has a collaboration of hot and cold texture put together on one plate. Queens Voc student Heriberto Velazquez, a former employee, refers to the treat as "perfectly balanced between sweet and buttery." Petite Abeille offers 7 different types of waffles. Expect to pay \$8 for the Dame Blanche. Petite Abeille is located between Duane Street and Thomas Street in Tribeca.

Katz's Deli is not an ordinary deli, it's more than that. Katz is an all-American style restaurant that offers the best sandwiches in New York City. Pastrami is Katz's specialty and their pastrami sandwich stands out because of its size and quality. It features a half pound of hand carved pastrami, topped with spicy mustard and stacked between 2 slices of rye bread. It's so big that it is impossible to eat without taking layers out. According to Queens Voc student Darwin Gomez, an employee at Katz is Deli for 4 years. "You're not gonna finish it." A look at the wall will leave people gazing at the picture of celebrities such as Bill Clinton, Fat Joe, and Tiki Barber, just to name a few. Katz's Deli is located between Houston Street and Ludlow Street on the Lower East Side. Expect to pay as much as \$15 to try the best sandwich in New York.

# Horoscopes

by Renato Lulaj

## Sagittarius

Nov 23 - Dec 21



There comes a point in life where you will need to take a breath and take some time off from everyday chores. Catch up on your old soap operas or game shows. Maybe even take a walk around the park or play your favorite sport. Spend some time meeting new people because life is full of surprises.

## Capricorn

Dec 22 - Jan 19



Even though you are stubborn and hard-headed, today will be an emotional day. Do not be scared or embarrassed to show your emotions. Talk to a friend about your situation or even cry if you need to. Sometimes you just have to let it all out to feel better. You will be amazed at who will be there for you and will find out you are not the only one with these problems.

## Aquarius

Jan 20 - Feb 18



There is a thin line between doing what you are asked to do from employers or friends and doing what your feelings tell you. Sometimes you will find out that doing the right thing is doing what your feelings tell you, no matter how much other people dislike you for not listening to them. Follow your instincts but also be prepared to deal with any consequences that come along the way.

## Pisces

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Your day will go by fast and lovely. During the day though, you will feel that something bad is going to happen, be extra careful that is does not. Do not panic. Go through your day, as the best things in the world will happen today. Do not worry about little things because life is not perfect so do not bring yourself down

## Aries

Mar 21 - Apr 19



Today you are feeling a little depressed over things you regret not doing. The best thing to do is to move on and do not look at the past. You have many opportunities coming up to redeem yourself and this time take every single opportunity so you won't regret them later on.

## Taurus

Apr 20 - May 20



While you are on a tight budget, take time to think and plan your spending. You will come to find out that it is not how much you make that is the problem but how much you spend. Keep a daily planner of your receipts and the products you bought. In time you will see that not everything you bought is necessary or worth spending your money on.

## Gemini

May 21 - Jun 21



You will probably be busy with schoolwork or at your job. There will be an attractive man or woman who will distract you keep you from your duties. Do not forget where you are and that there is a time and place for everything. You must control yourself or you will find out that you aren't supposed to mix business with pleasure.

## Cancer

Jun 22 - Jul 22



You seem to be stressed out over work and life itself. Maybe things aren't going your way or maybe you're just having a bad week. Take some time off to have fun and get in touch with your inner self. Go out watch a movie, hang out with some friends, or spend some time with your loved ones. Relieve yourself of work or your negative thoughts for a little while and instead focus on positive things and be more active in sports or going out.

## Leo

Jul 23 - August 22



This will be a great week for you. Be as friendly and as positive as you can be because all of it will be rewarding in the end. You will not regret it. You will have a chance to meet someone of your liking and make some money during the process. Keep your eyes open and your hand out to help those in need because the favor will be returned later on.

## Virgo

Aug 23 - Sep 22



You are a big secret keeper. People trust you with their personal life and their feelings. However, you are not a computer and you will need to

unload some of this from your shoulders so you don't have to carry the whole world on your back. You have a family member who is willing to listen, as long as you tell them it's a friend. Do not make the issue about yourself.

## Libra

Sep 23 - Oct 23



Today will be a clumsy day for you. Do not take it personally or that you have a curse, it is just one of those days where you think you woke up on the wrong side of the bed. The fact is these types of moments are called life. It has its good moments and its bad moments. Think positive and be alert for any mishaps that can happen unexpectedly.

## Scorpio

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Risk taking is part of your everyday life. Today though, you will need to take it easy. You do not need to always be the center of attention because it can lead to unpleasant events. Today is the day you lay back, relax, and let things flow their way.

## Who's the Teacher

by Jeffrey Truong

Try to figure out who the following teachers are.

### Teacher 1

This person is very funny and weird. He does not like to wear socks until December. Since his favorite rapper is Eminem and he has a gangster picture at www.myspace.com. In school he is also known as "The Godfather." He was a dean for 11 years. He has the ability to shoot 7/10 basketball free throws.

### Teacher 2

This is her first year in this school, but she has been teaching for 3 years. Right now she is going through the SVA program, and while doing so teaches juniors. She went to Thomas Edison H.S. and is a big soccer fan.

### Teacher 3

This person is usually a laid-back guy. He is known as "Big Bear," because of his habit of eating honey. He is an outdoor person, and one of his favorite activities is surfing, so you will most likely find him at the shore. He listens to rock and roll. Jerry lives!

### Teacher 4

This person is friendly and explains her assignments well. She came to Queens Voc in 2003 as an international teacher. She has been teaching for 20 years.

### Answers

- 1) Mr. Maloney
- 2) Mrs. Ramdeo
- 3) Mr. Boyle
- 4) Ms. Nasreen

## Book Review

by Iris Rivera

### Lord of the Flies

by William Golding

A plane crashes on an uninhabited island during a nuclear war and the only survivors are school-aged children. Because the crash takes the lives of the adults, the children are faced with the challenge to look after themselves.

In the beginning of Golding's novel, the children behave rationally. There is a sense of democracy and order from what they learned in their normal environment before the crash. They build themselves shelter and search for food. As time progresses, the children become malicious and rebellious. They start to throw rocks at each other and forget that they must help each other.

Ralph, the protagonist in the novel, first recognizes the predicament he is in. As more children are discovered behind the bushes and the lagoon, Ralph takes the initiative to unite the children in a group. In the novel, he is perceived as an authority figure who wants to establish a democratic society amongst the children. Ralph achieves this, but when Jack, the antagonist, wants to create his own group, there is a confrontation between the two. Jack is perceived as an anarchist who wants to create his own little world where there are no rules to follow and everything is a matter of survival. His notion about survival turns into an obsession which involves murder.

*Lord of the Flies* has themes such as security, freedom, friendships, war, and the

relationship with other people, all of which pertain to the world we live in.

William Golding incorporates what we know about society, such as the laws we must follow and how our rights are protected in the Constitution, into a novel which tests unlimited freedom and humanity. Someone once said that we are all civilized until we kill someone.

With every story there is a theme to learn. This novel delivers the theme.

## Did you know?

compiled by Estefania Garcia

- The height of the Eiffel Tower varies by as much as 6 inches depending on the temperature.
- The average koala sleeps 22 hours each day.
- A hummingbird's heart beats fourteen hundred times in a minute.
- The Hawaiian alphabet has only 12 letters.
- Each year, the average person walks the distance from New York to Miami.
- Mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas.
- A hummingbird weighs less than a penny.
- The 1st MTV video was "Video Killed the Radio Star," by the Buggles.
- In a year, the average person walks 4 miles making his or her bed.
- Napoleon suffered from a fear of cats.
- Popcorn was invented by the American Indians.
- "Arachibutlphobia" is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth.
- Flamingos turn pink from eating shrimp.
- Giraffes can lick their own eyes.
- At birth a human has 350 bones, but only 206 bones when full grown.
- Fish can drown.
- A blue whale's heart is the size of a small car.
- When the moon is directly overhead you weigh slightly less.
- A turkey can run 20 miles per hour.
- It costs the U.S. government 2.5 cents to produce a quarter.
- A ball of glass will bounce higher than a ball of rubber.
- Caterpillars have over 2,000 muscles.

Source: www.snapple.com



# Inside Tiger Sports



## Let's Get Pumping

by Arjenis Abreu

The weight room at Queens Voc is located in the basement in room B52. In the weight room, students can workout using the equipment in the room. Right now, students are not allowed to use the weight room during gym class. "Students will be able to use the weight room when the physical education unit deals with strength and conditioning," said Mr. Boyle. For now, only sports teams are allowed to use the weight room.

The weight room includes dumbbells up to 50 pounds, an abs lounge, a bench pressing station, a dip bar with a pull up

bar, 6 bicycles, jump ropes, and a section for students to workout their legs, arms, chest, back, and abs.

When the unit on strength and conditioning begins, a teacher will be in the room to supervise the students as they workout and will teach the students how to use the equipment correctly so students can get a good workout and safely so injuries won't occur.

"The Physical Education Department has requested that the weight room possibly be open for all students to use before and after school and that is what we are trying to do," said Mr. Boyle.

## Soccer Boys Kick Their Way to the Playoffs

*continued from back page*

According to Coach Ali, the defense was good and the offense a bit shaky. "The team practiced and made a great effort but we could have done better." "The playoffs were heartbreaking," said Kenneth Marin, the team manager and a junior at Queens Voc. "Losing was horrible but we played a good game."

The Tigers won 4 out of their first 6 games this season, then went 2 weeks without a win. "The season in general was filled with ups and downs. It was competitive. We played aggressive defense and offense."

The team's coach recognized the efforts of his players. "I appreciate the students' participation," said Coach Ali. "They did their best."

Hector Roche, a sophomore in his second year on the team was the team captain. His teammates were: Andres Arcila, Pablo Ayora, Beshion Bailey, Humbert Batista, David Bueno, Freddie Cardona, Luis Castillo, Ozan Cetinkaya, Jose Flor, Federic Fortuny, Ahmed

Gawashty, Piotr Gumieniak, Jorge Herrera, Christian Jadan, David Lawrence, Diego Marin,



**Coach and Captain**

Fernando Mendez, Milton Morocho, Jay Ocampo, Santiago Orellana, Muhamed Paljevic, Gaston Partesano, Gregory Paul, Alex Penaloza, Byron Pineda, Diego Ramos, Luis Romero, Roger Romero, Michael Ruiz, Camilo Salazar, Waleed Samar, Peter Serraty, Alexander Tenf, Luis Veras, and Jefferson Zamora.



## Girls B-Ball goes Varsity

by Elbel Estrella

After a developmental season last year, the girls' basketball team is getting ready for its first varsity season under head coach Mr. Devaux.

In their 2005 developmental season the Lady Tigers finished a 5-2 record, earning them a spot this year in the varsity Queens B-3 division. "I am excited about the opportunity of coaching on the varsity level this year," Coach Devaux said.

The Lady Tigers begin their varsity season without 4 of last year's starters, including leading scorer and rebounder Melissa De Jesus. The four starters graduated last year. Nevertheless Coach Devaux believes it is going to be a competitive season. "I really don't know what to expect, we are now part of a tougher and more competitive varsity division, but one thing is for certain, I am going to make sure my team gives all they got when they step on that court." The coach said.

The Lady Tigers couldn't practice until October 30th due to PSAL rules, but the team is looking forward to their December 6 home opener against Frank Sinatra, sophomore Ivana Nunez said. The girls' varsity schedule consists of 14 league games in which they play division rivals Grover Cleveland, RFK, Academy of American Studies, Newcomers, Info Tech, Frank Sinatra, and Renaissance twice each. The Lady Tigers close their season just as they opened it, at home against Newcomers on January 31. All varsity games will start at 4:30.



## Boys' Basketball Keeps Shootin'

*continued from back page*

game. The team also faced Richmond Hill in a scrimmage on November 10, leading 5 out of the 6 quarters.

The team has a lot to look forward to, according to Nikolas Nissirios, starting point guard. "I see a big improvement on the team compared to last year."



**Danny throwing it down.**

Last season earned the team a spot in the playoffs, after finishing with a 12-8 record. Starting center Reid Samedi, who graduated in 2006, has left a void at that position, but Coach Maloney is working hard to keep Daniel Sanchez as the

new starting center, focusing on his academics to keep him eligible. "Danny can be a major force for this team," said the coach.

The Queens Voc Tigers basketball team consists of 19 players this season: seniors Jesus Alonso, Keon Badger, Matthew Cabrera, Paul Carino, Leonel Garcia, Oscar Hernandez, Lamar Jenkins, Nikolas Nissirios, Daniel Sanchez, and Jeffrey Truong; juniors David Bermudez, Andrew Ferguson, Christopher Luna; sophomores Skyfree Ferguson, Jarrell Hampton, Edwin Hill, Mingmar Lama, Carlos Mason, and George Serna.

The Queens Voc Tigers practice 4 times a week in the gym. Their regular season began on November 29, and ends February 5. The Tigers opened at home against Newcomers on November 29.



## Uniforms Required at Queens Voc

by Gabriel Ortiz

Students who take Physical Education in Queens Voc are required to wear gym uniforms as part of the course. If they don't, they are considered unprepared. "When students are marked as 'unprepared' it directly affects their grade," said Mr. Garofano, one of five Phys Ed teachers.

Students who are unprepared lose five points off their grade each day and are not allowed to participate in the day's Phys Ed activities.

"The purpose of the uniforms is to provide students with clothing that is made for

exercise, to promote unity among students, to demonstrate class expectations, and to show the significance of Physical Education in the life of every child," said Mr. Lerro, a Phys Ed teacher in Queens Voc. Mrs. Bloom, another Phys Ed teacher in Queens Voc, stated that students "need to be dressed in safe outfits. Street clothes are not designed for flexibility or agility."

Students in Phys Ed are also required to wear sneakers. No other footwear is accepted. Those who fail to wear sneakers are unprepared and cannot participate in any activities during their Phys Ed class.

Uniforms are sold during each lunch period. The t-shirt is \$6 and the shorts are \$10, and sizes range from small to XXL. An exception is made for students if their clothing size is not available. Those students are allowed to wear a gray Queens Voc t-shirt. "Gray is yay," said Mr. Boyle. If the school shorts do not fit, students may use green shorts or gray sweat pants.

Mr. Lerro believes that "uniforms will help promote a more positive attitude among students regarding the importance of Physical Education."

# SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

**Yolanis Barros**



Age: 17  
Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling  
Position: C team  
Years on team: 1

"Yolanis is a good team player and she is very friendly."  
- Ivana Nunez

"Yolanis played well enough in the tryouts to play on the team. She is always willing to learn and listen."  
- Mr. Garofano

**Lorraine Alba**



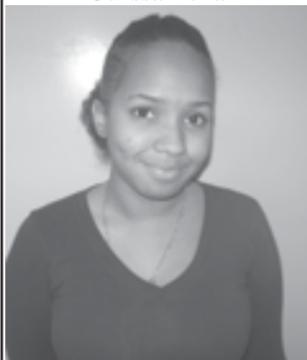
Age: 18  
Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling  
Position: A team/ Captain  
Years on team: 3

"Lorraine is always helping everyone on the team. She is always positive and cheers the team on."  
- Dayana Jaramillo

"When Lorraine plays well, the team plays well."  
- Mr. Garofano

by Raiza Izquierdo

**Jelissa Pena**



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

"Jelissa keeps the team spirit alive and she is a good competitor."  
- Lorena Bonilla

"Jelissa has been a solid player for 2 years and is the leader of the B team."  
- Mr. Garofano

**Carlos Guerra**

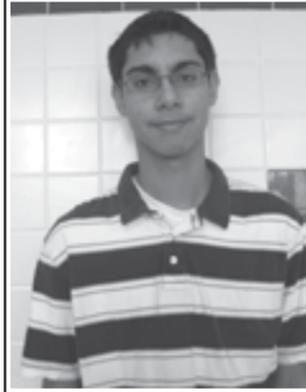


Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling  
Position: B team  
Years on team: 2

"Carlos is a good bowler and he is always ready to play. He is confident."  
- Anthony Hughes

"Carlos is a consistent player who has come through in the clutch for the team several times."  
- Mr. Devaux

**Gabriel Ortiz**



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling  
Position: A team  
Years on team: 2

"Gabriel improved a lot and always comes through when the team needs him."  
- David Bermudez

"Gabriel has shown great progress during the season due to his good work ethic."  
- Mr. Devaux

## Staying in Shape

by Arjenis Abreu

This is Queen Voc's second year with a gym and the physical education teachers have developed organized activity units for the students. These units include football, basketball, wiffleball, strength and conditioning, and volleyball. "The units consist of progressive skill development for the students and each unit generally lasts a couple of weeks. The first unit we did was football and it was successful, and now we are doing basketball," said Mr. Boyle. "All students participate in the same activity," he said.

In addition to Mr. Boyle, Ms. Bloom, Mr. Devaux, Mr. Lerro, and Mr. Garofano are Queens Voc's physical education teachers. "Physical activities are to promote fitness," said Ms. Bloom.

During the football unit, students were taught how to play the game. They ran drills and played against one another on the teams that were made. "I like how the teachers taught the students how to play football and how they gave us pointers on how to get better in the game," said Alan Casallas, a senior.

Before the activity begins, all students have to do warm-ups. The warm-ups may include

**Marios Savva**



Age: 18  
Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling  
Position: A team  
Years on team: 3

"Mario is a great inspiration and very humble. He is consistent and always happy."  
- Brandon Drakeford

"Marios is a very consistent player, I know what to expect of him. I call him the 'King of Spades.'"  
- Mr. Devaux

**Fernando Mendez**



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

"Fernando is a hard working player. He never gives up and keeps the team together."  
- Alex Penaloza

"Fernando tries very hard and plays his position well. He is not afraid to be aggressive."  
- Mr. Ali

**Andres Arcila**



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer  
Position: Mid-field  
Years on team: 2

"Andres is a good player and has a lot of team spirit."  
- Luis Romero

"Andres has a lot of potential, and he is very dedicated towards the team."  
- Mr. Ali

**Humberto Batista**



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer  
Position: Defense  
Years on team: 2

"Humberto is a good defense player. He is always motivated to play."  
- Milton Morocho

"Humberto is strong on defense, but he likes to play mid-field. He shows strong interest in playing the game."  
- Mr. Ali

running laps around the gym and or doing stretches. "We stretch as much as possible in the limited amount of time that we have," said Ms. Bloom, "because stretching helps prevent injury while they are playing." Stretches may include neck rolls, forearm stretch, triceps stretch, abs stretch, leg stretch, ankle stretch, and shoulder stretch.

Once the stretches are done, all the prepared students participate in the current unit.

To participate in physical education, students must wear a gym uniform. "Three unprepareds and students fail," said Mr. Boyle, "so we encourage them to be prepared." Students

who do not wear their uniform must stand the entire period along the south wall. Students change in the two lockerrooms

across the hall from the gym, room B39 for girls and room B45 for boys, prior to going into the gym for class.



Phys Ed students doing their regular stretches.

**Join SO  
see Mr.  
Vega in  
room  
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# Baseball Team Off & Running Boys Begin Another Busy Season

by Jennifer Cabrera

As the bell rang to begin the long Thanksgiving weekend, the boys on the baseball team assembled in room 325 for a surprise Thanksgiving dinner. It wasn't a surprise to them—it was a surprise to their coach.

"It was something we never did before," said Danny Medina, a 3-year veteran and team leader. "It was more special as a surprise." Elbel Estrella, a 4-year veteran and another team leader said "We wanted to start our own tradition," added Elbel Estrella, "We wanted our own place in Tigers baseball history. But there's more to it than that. "We're a large team," said 4-year veteran and team leader Dio Gonzalez, "but we're coming together faster than we expected. Activities like this unite us as a close-knit family." The buffet dinner included salad, turkey, pernil, moro, vegetable rice, and sweet plantains.

Although the baseball season is months away, the Queens Voc Tigers boys baseball team has been busy. In August, the veterans helped out at orientation for the new students. In September, the coach, Mr. Schimenz, met with interested students and discussed tryouts, the importance of doing well in school, staying out of trouble, and what it's like being on the team.

From September 26-29, tryouts were held after school at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. On Saturday, September 30, tryouts were from 8am to 3pm. The boys participated in a variety of activities including exercises, running, fielding groundballs and fly balls, and batting. "The tryouts ran smoothly, said Coach Schimenz, because of the activities that the



**D. Lopez hitting flyballs.**

team leaders planned and coordinated.

Recently, when they wanted to improve school spirit and raise some funds, the leaders decided to sell "Queens Voc

Tigers" wristbands. Within days, the team sold all \$500 worth of the green wristbands.

Not only are the Tigers dedicated to baseball and their school, but they also believe in giving back to the community. In November, the coach and team leaders went to a dinner honoring parks volunteers at the Queens Museum of Art. Each year, the Tigers participate several It's My Park! days at Flushing Meadows Park. This fall, 35 boys met at the park on



**Tryouts end but boys still smile.**

Saturday, October 19. The day began with breakfast, courtesy of Starbucks. The boys then cleaned up along the shoreline of Meadow Lake. After that they were given lunch. Many of the boys then walked over to Forest Hills High School for their fourth and final scrimmage of the fall tryout season.

Scrimmages are held to see who can help the team, and to see who has the necessary skills. The coach and leaders observe who cheers on the team, who works, and who contributes.

The leaders participate in the selection of the new Tiger team. But these veteran players don't only look for skills. They also look for players who have heart and dedication. "The player must show his commitment to the team and show that he could be an active part of the Tiger family," said Elbel. Mr. Schimenz wants the season to run smoothly. "I want to have a team that plays well and represents Queens Voc with dignity," said Mr. Schimenz.

The baseball team held a bowl-a-thon on November 6, as part of the team-building activities the coach stresses.

This year, many freshmen and sophomores were chosen. Coach Schimenz believes that by picking younger players the team builds for the future and the boys will develop substantially during the long season. "They get to watch older, more experienced players and they get advice from them. And with our busy schedule, they get to play

quite a bit too." He also decided to choose young players because he believes they tend to be more energetic. "It's exciting to see how they develop over the four years," he said.

Working together with the coach, team leaders, and alumni players is very important to make the team stronger. Danny Ortiz, a freshman, noted that tryouts were very challenging and tiring. He believes that his skills can contribute to the team both on and off the field. Another

freshman, Jhonniery Perez, expects to learn from the leaders and wants the team to make it to the playoffs.

Senior Daniel Medina decided that his goal for this last year is to set an example for the young players, on the field and off. He believes that the young players have a lot of time to develop into team leaders, and that's good, he says, because the better the leadership the more likely the season will be successful. "I want the year to run smoothly, and I would like to be able to talk to the younger guys and give them the advice they need to progress in the next couple of years," said Danny.

The Tigers varsity baseball team took second place last year with a 12-4 record and went to the playoffs for the fifth consecutive year. This year's Tigers include veterans: Alex Almanzar, Carlos Belliard, Jason Castillo, Steven D'Elena, Elbel Estrella, Danny Fernandez, Diomedes Gonzalez, Jerry Hernandez, Jonathan Matias, Daniel Medina, Larry Pichardo, Steve Pinell, Emmanuel Portorreal, Cristian Rodriguez, Guillermo Taveras, and Angel Tejada; and newly selected rookies: Roy Aranzamendi, Jamie Collado, Rene Cruz, Juan De La Cruz, Rafael De' Oleo, Janio Fernandez, Erwin Gonzalez, Arnaldo Jimenez, Raylin Leroux, David Lopez, Luke Nelson, Jhonniery Perez, Daniel Ortiz, Luis Ramirez, Joao Reyes, Marc Vecchio, Carlin Vizcaino.



by Carlos Guerra

## Life After High School

High school students often wonder what life's like after graduation. Some work hard to pursue a career so they can enjoy the life ahead. Others like to think they have the world in the palm of their hands. And some take life day by day.

Jacqueline Rodriguez, vice president of the Class of 2006, is now studying Hospitality Management at New York City College of Technology. While a senior at Queens Voc, she was a part of the yearbook committee and a student in leadership. "I am going to school full-time and just dedicating and focusing only on my school work," she said. Some people don't have a clue about what they want to do in life, but Jackie is determined to stay on the right track. "I knew that I was going to go straight into college no matter what. Right now, I know what I want to do with my life and I'm on that road to success," she said.

For other graduates, college is not their decision, just full time work and dedication. Marvin Cordero, Class of 2005 electrical installation student and varsity handball player, wants to get into Electricians Union Local #3 and become an electrician and a project manager. "That's where the money is," he exclaimed. Marvin is in an apprenticeship program through Construction 2000. In order to be part of the

**"Don't follow your friends. Don't be like them; it is not going to get you anywhere."**

apprenticeship program, he had taken a test to get into the union.

Other graduates make their decision by taking internship programs. Alejandro Arango, Class of 2005 graduate, recently started an internship at the Star Toyota of Bayside service center. He received the internship with the help of his girlfriend and his close friend. "I'm also taking night classes at New York Automotive and Diesel Institute," he said. What motivates him is making more money and moving into an apartment with his girlfriend. He chose this career because of his interest in cars.

Adaptation is a part of life. Lucas Rodriguez, a Class of 2005 computer tech student, is going to get used to a new home. He is moving to Uruguay. "I am planning for the advancement of my life. I will go anywhere around the world to pursue my career," he said. If his plan doesn't work, he wants to work anywhere far away. "A change of scenery will do wonders towards motivating me and starting my studies," he said. Next year he plans to move to Italy or follow wherever the path his career goes. "It'll be hard to adapt for me but I will miss New York very much," he said.

And for others, relaxation is the best way to enjoy the post-graduation. Carlos Echevarria, a Class of 2005 business student, is relaxing and waiting to see what life will bring. "I've just been hanging out with friends and looking for a job with benefits, to set my life in order," he said. Simply, Carlos just takes it easy. "I cannot tell what the future holds and if I do anything it won't make a big difference. I let events happen and let it be. If an event happens, it happened for a reason. I live life the way it is. I don't do anything special for something to happen or not. I live my life stress free, the way to be," he claimed. He wanted to go to LaGuardia Community College, but he decided not to because it was much too money for him. In his opinion college is overrated and a waste of time. At this point of his life, Carlos is jobless and not going to school. "It does not bother me. I will eventually do something in life and be happy; but then again, I am happy what I am doing as of now. Life is good and I am enjoying it."

Some Queens Voc graduates realize the importance of setting realistic goals. "Follow your dreams, even though there are always going to be obstacles in life. Pick a goal and go at it with full force," said Alejandro.

"Don't follow your friends. Don't be like them; it is not going to get you anywhere. It might be cool in high school, but it is not cool in the real world. Do your thing and learn something outside of QV because that will get into your pocket and get your stomach filled up," Marvin said.



# TIGERS

## Girls Strike Again

Make playoffs 2nd consecutive year

by Rayvan Walker

The Queens Voc girls' bowling team ended the same way they started, doing well. With a record of 7-5, they made it to the playoffs and came in 2nd place in their division.

The team lost the playoffs game to Townsend Harris High School.

Mr. Garofano, who has coached of bowling team for 5 years, enjoys teaching the girls how to bowl. "I enjoy the competitiveness of the sport and I always get hardworking girls on the team," he said. The team consists of 6 seniors: Loraine Alba, Yolanis Barros, Jennifer Cabrera, Nachele Colin, Jelissa Pena, and Raydalkys Reyes; 3 juniors: Yara Diaz, Christi Hernandez, and Dayana Jaramillo; 4 sophomores: Lorena Bonilla, Samantha Mendez, Ivana Nunez, and Magdaline Rodriguez; and 1 freshman: Bianca Rodriguez.

Loraine Alba has been on the team for 3 years and was captain of the team this year. With an average of 167, Loraine placed 73 out of 250 girls in PSAL girls' bowling.



Loraine gives a lot of credit to her coach. "Mr. Garofano is a great coach because he motivates us all the time, he also supports us when we don't do that well, he understands us. I don't know how it would be without him," she said. Mr. Garofano returns the compliment. "Loraine is a talented bowler and very competitive." This had a lot to do with why he picked her as captain. Raydalkys Reyes, a rookie on the team, thinks Loraine was a captain. "She is easy to get along with and she didn't put too much pressure on us to do well, she just told us to do our best."

The top three bowlers on the team are: Loraine Alba, with an average of 116, Samantha Mendez, with an average of 107.82, and Magdaline

Rodriguez, with an average of 107.38. "I believe the most consistent player on the team is Samantha Mendez," Loraine said.

Nachele Colin, a rookie on the team, said she likes bowling because "it is an easy sport to learn to play and you can have fun at the same time. Also, I don't like to sweat and bowling you don't sweat at all." 2-year veteran Jelissa Pena said she decided to join the bowling team because "I wanted to try something new for a change. Once I joined the team, I really enjoyed bowling and made a comeback for my last year of high school."



## Boys' Basketball Keeps Shootin'

by David Stanojev

The Queens Voc basketball team is off to a flying start as they beat Seward Park 62-37 on Tuesday, November 14, in a non-league contest at home.

The team was led by rookie Daniel Sanchez, who scored 22 points. Coach Maloney was pleased with the results of the game, but, he stated, "We still need a

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# SPORTS

## Boys Bowling Reach Playoffs Again

by Volodymyr Sulyk

For the second year in a row, the Queens Voc boys' bowling team made it to the playoffs. The Boys' won a qualifying match, defeating Beacon High School 2 matches to 1. In the first official round, according to the PSAL website, the boys lost to Boys & Girls High School 2 to 0. The boys finished in third place in Queens Division II with 6 wins and 4 losses.

The boys' Tigers home alley is the AMF 34th Avenue Bowl in Woodside. The team practiced two hours a day, Monday through Thursday, when not bowling competitively.

This year, the team consisted of five veterans: David Bermudez, Brandon Drakeford, Carlos Guerra, Gabriel Ortiz, and Marios Savva. They



were joined by five rookies: Steven Abreu, Jose Dias, Anthony Hughes, Mahendra Jagdharry, and Wai Lun Lam.

According to Mr. Devaux, Anthony Hughes was the best player on the team this year. "He is the number one-ranked PSAL bowler in NYC," Coach Devaux said. Anthony ended the season with an average of 216.7 in his first year on the team. "My dad inspires me and practices," said Anthony. "Anthony has great ability and skill," said Carlos, who has been on the team for two years and has a 122 average. Anthony bowled a 275 against LIC on November 1. That was his highest game for the school season. On November 20 Anthony played in the borough individuals. He played against other top students from Queens. Anthony came in first place. The top 9 players then went on to the city individuals. Anthony came in third place. According to Mr. Devaux, "Anthony received a plaque for being the number one PSAL bowler in the city during the season."

The players see the coach as glue that holds the team together. "Mr. Devaux motivates us when we're feeling down and helps us during our practices when we are not doing our best," said Gabriel Ortiz. The coach made the environment and practice simple without pressure. While the boys encouraged each other to play better, the coach helped the players stay focused. "Coach Devaux is the most inspiring person on the team," said Anthony Hughes. "The whole team plays best to win our games," said Anthony. The bowlers and coach get along. "We have a great team, and a great coach," said Gabriel Ortiz, who has a 130.08 average, and has been on the team for two years.

Leaving the team are Jose Dias, Carlos Guerra, Mahendra Jagdharry, Gabriel Ortiz, and Marios Savva, who will be graduating in June.

## Boys' Soccer Team Kicks Its Way to the Playoffs

by Iris Rivera

The boys' varsity soccer team finished their fifth season, placing third out of seven teams in their division and making the playoffs for the third consecutive years. The boys record was 5 wins, 3 losses, and 4 ties.

The playoff game was held on November 1 at North Meadow in Central Park against A.P. Randolph High School. The Tigers lost 1-0. "The Playoffs were very challenging," said Coach Ali, an Electronics teacher at Queens Voc. "The team was not accustomed playing on that field, which was uneven and small compared to the field in Flushing Meadows Park.

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# TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE