Approximately four million people throughout the world took to the streets to fight against climate change.

Students Rise Against Climate Change

by Natalia Mejia

Students at Queens Technical High School were among the thousands who gathered at Foley Square in New York City to attend the Global Climate Strike on September 20.

The New York City strike started in Foley Square and ended in Battery Park. The event was organized by Fridays For Future. This group has been protesting climate change since last year. This organization was started by a group of volunteers in August 2018. The spark for the creation of this organization were Greta Thunberg’s protests every Friday outside the Swedish Parliament.

Speakers included: Greta Thunberg, Artemisa Xakriabá, Dr. Ayana Johnson and Rebecca Sandman. Performers included Willow and Jaden Smith. The one to initiate the global climate strike was 16 year old Greta Thunberg. The climate activist sailed in a yacht to the event in New York to avoid creating harmful emissions. She spoke at the event to show the importance of young people coming together to make this change.

Greta Thunberg told The New York Times: “change is coming whether they like it or not.”

Students them selves enjoyed the event. “It was a unique freedom and wrote explicit words, pens and at a separate show. Fairey is a famous American artist who creates graffiti to reinforce the excitement of the classroom,” student Mia Quiroz said.

With this new request and the support of the principal and the assistant principals, the final decision was made and took place at the beginning of the school year. The change “gives students and teachers a longer period of time to do some meaningful work,” said Principal Burg.

“I believe it helps teachers evaluate students more precisely compared to when teachers only had three weeks worth of paperwork to evaluate students,” said Ms. Nunez, an Electrical Installation teacher at Queens Tech.

Chalk Day Leaves a Mark

by Arriel Starlin

On September 27, Ms. Volpe organized an event for her students where they drew graffiti art around the school interior. Students visited Beyond The Streets graffiti art exhibition in August. They learned about the importance and history of graffiti. Ms. Volpe attended and met with Shepard Fairey at a separate show. Fairey is a famous American artist who creates graffiti to reinforce his activism.

While exchanging ideas with him, Ms. Volpe found the inspiration to teach graffiti art to her students. Shepard Fairey has art all across the globe including in New York and London. He describes his art as a way of “creating power even if you weren’t born with power.” Ms. Volpe taught graffiti to her class as their first unit. She based her unit on the “liberal freedom” of the art form. She wanted her students to experience that freedom and be able to express themselves in a wider scale. “I enjoyed it. We were able to get creative and express ourselves outside of the school,” student Lucia Quiroz said.

Students had practiced their skills and put them to use during the event. “Many students who participated were more engaged than they were in their classes. They were thinking about what to draw or write,” Ms. Volpe said. Students themselves enjoyed the event. “It was a unique experience. It’s a way of leaving a mark on your school,” Senior Emily Gil said.

The day made students feel proud of their work, “I felt like the day allowed art to be fun outside of the classroom,” student Mia Guerra mentioned.

A few students abused their freedom and wrote explicit sayings on the wall. “The ones that I saw I erased and others, I had my students draw over,” Ms. Volpe said. Their day ended earlier than expected. “I was in shock. I wasn’t aware that this was happening,” Mr. Aliakkos, assistant principal mentioned.

Gym Floor Finishes at the Buzzer

by Jessica Wu

Queens Tech is experiencing gym renovations because of a flood that destroyed the wooden floor during the last week of June.

“There was a crack in the main shore line leading to the street and the water of the toilet sewer line backed up,” said Mr. Aliakkos, assistant principal of Queens Tech.

Gym students are currently going outside to participate in physical education but only under certain weather conditions. Students and staff go outside if the temperature is above 40 degrees Fahrenheit and if it is not raining or if the floor is wet. Students have varying opinions of the situation on hand, but since there is not much they can do, some feel frustrated by this drastic change.

“Winter is coming and the students are forced to take sweaters and coats to keep themselves warm. Furthermore, it’s cold and the sun sometimes gets in the way of how the students play,” said Marjorie Morales, a senior in the period seven gym class.

“I feel frustrated because the weather is changing. Sometimes you feel hot and other times it’s cold and people can easily get sick this way. The gym is also much bigger compared to the courtyard and is not as cramped,” said Tiffany Jiang, a senior in period seven Physical Education.

“To renovate the gym, including new lines, logos, bleachers, and water fountains it cost roughly $250,000,” said Mr. Aliakkos. The students will move back to the gym hopefully by the first week of 2020 if all conditions are met.
Students Strike Back
continued from page 1

Nineteen year-old Artemis Xakriabá is a native Brazilian climate activist. She urged those listening to protect the Amazon Rainforest.

“The event made me feel empowered because there were many people who were passionate about climate change. Seeing the different types of people of all ages who attended,” said Senior Angelica Diaz.

Students from all over New York united with signs demanding for climate change to be the top priority for all governments and to stop ignoring that the world is heating up.

“Hearing stories from people my age opened my eyes about how climate can affect people,” said senior Angelica Diaz.

The climate strike took place three days before the climate summit which occurred at the United Nations building in New York, where Greta Thunberg alongside other activists and political leaders attended, speaking on climate change.

Some action was taken for this issue. However, the climate strike hasn’t ended. Nov. 29 will be the fourth climate strike this year.

The climate strike took place three days before the climate summit which occurred at the United Nations building in New York, where Greta Thunberg alongside other activists and political leaders attended, speaking on climate change. Activists have been demanding for climate change to be the top priority for all governments and to stop ignoring that the world is heating up.

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The change of location allowed more openness and comfort for every student. They now form a circle in the classroom instead of being separated by walls and computer screen. They share how they feel throughout the week, as minimal as any other club.

Darlene D’Astolfo
Poetry Club in Queens Technical High School is a club that meets after school that discusses various types of poetry. It is a club that has been around for over three years.

The current president of the poetry club, Kevin Shaholli, and English teacher Ms. D’astolfo, have come up with many ideas on how to make Poetry club more accessible and fun for new members and old members of the club.

When poetry club was first established in 2017 in room 411, it only consisted of a couple sophomore students. As time passed, the number of consistent members just kept dwindling, yet it never lost the spirit it had since the first day it was established.

The second year consisted of the same as well. It almost looked like there would be no hope for Poetry Club. The room was changed to room 358 this year.

“Opening up poetry to more students at Queens Technical High School were invited to participate in Red Ribbon Week from October 21 to the 25 to showcase drug and violence prevention awareness with active engagement in the school.

The week long event includes a unique theme each day. They were Red Ribbon Day, Denim Day, Camouflage Day, Sports Day, and Pajama Day.

Ms. Mieses, Queens Tech’s SPARRS counselor was in charge of hosting this event after her concern about the abuse of young adults.

During the students’ lunch periods, Ms. Mieses would hand out red ribbons, as well as hand out flyers encouraging students to make beneficial choices that affect their mental and physical being. Students believed a healthy outcome came out of this campaign. It was heartwarming to see students as well as me, wear the ribbon on their shirt or even their bag. I felt united,” says Sydney Barreto, a participant.

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People around the country wore red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the negative effects caused by drugs in America.

“On my way back home a stranger asked about my ribbon,” said I am spreading awareness!” said Kimberly Juarez, a student at Queens Tech. The more we are aware of the issues around us, the faster we can seek help, one person at a time.

According to OnTheHealth.com, most 40 percent of high school students admit to drinking within the last month, seven percent of students admit to using marijuana almost every day and 40 percent of students smoking marijuana in general.

Drug abuse has been a major epidemic affecting teenagers worldwide, which is why The Red Ribbon Campaign has been coming together to give a voice to those who are addicted, who are unheard, and who feel like no one and nothing can change them.

Awareness begins with you. Awareness begins with you. Awareness begins with you. Awareness begins with you.
It was the day before winter vacation and all through the school, all the people were stirring because this day’s so cool.

The elf shirts were worn by the staff with care, in hopes that vacation would soon be there.

The children were working all the teachers did find, while visions of sleeping late danced in their mind.

The elf shirts were worn by the staff with care, in hopes that vacation would soon be there. The bell rang to signal the end of the day, and I thought I heard Mr. Alikakos say, “Happy holidays to all and a good week off! See you January second, I have had enough!”

Mr. Alikakos

“Going from three marking periods to two is a disadvantage to students knowing that a final grade is important, but for now, I hope you make a change in the lives of our students. Believed I could make a lasting impression on me. I said, ‘Hi Denise, it’s Melissa’ and you need a higher grade like an 85 for the second marking period to two is a disadvantage to students. It’s also beneficial to teachers in the classroom. Believed I could make a lasting impression.”

Mr. Alikakos

Senior attending Queens Tech.

Vittor was a skillful educator who wanted to improve the school for more than ten years, teaching from preparatory schools to middle schools, and high school. “She was a hardworking and dedicated person who wanted to improve the school but keep the CTE shops alive. At that time, different policymakers wanted to close down the different programs, and she really fought to keep them open,” said Principal Burg.

“We need to keep up with the standards and make sure that all the students are learning and doing well. We have a great group of teachers and staff who are dedicated to helping each student succeed.”

—Esther Perez

Principal

Mr. Vittor was a brilliant educator and a wonderful friend”

—Noor Aayla

Denise Vittor taught at QT for 28 years.

Denise Vittor, former principal of Queens Technical High School passed away on November 5. “I happened to be sitting in my desk, and I received a text message around November from her saying ‘guess where I am?’ and that was because in November, her or her husband wound up getting sick. She told me, ‘I’m having terrible pain in my stomach’ and was at the hospital. We usually joked about it, because everything would turn out okay. But a week later, we found out that she had pancreatic cancer and ‘went through a year of treatment,’ said Ms. Burg. Vittor once told Principal Burg that she was in immense pain, before finding out that she had cancer.

Vittor followed Vittor along her journey being treated, and ultimately Vittor was moved into the hospice, and was kept comfortable until she passed away. Vittor was a skilled educator for more than ten years, teaching from preparatory schools to middle schools, and high school. “She was a hardworking and dedicated person who wanted to improve the school but keep the CTE shops alive. At that time, different policymakers wanted to close down the different programs, and she really fought to keep them open,” said Principal Burg.

“She was one of the most amazing educators I have ever met. Denise was one of a kind. Me and some QT teachers plan to raise funds to buy a memorial bench, dedicated to Denise. She helped half of the teachers in this building, including our current principal, and helped improve the status of our school.”

Ms. Burg has continued her legacy, with a similar leadership approach that is caring and nurturing professional but with high expectations,” said Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal. Her service was an end on Saturday, November 09, 2019 at 10:30AM at the St. Agnes Cathedral, where close family and friends came together to be in memory and send condolences.

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Ocampo comments on Vittor’s character saying, “Denise; she inspired me. To be greater, to think beyond my goals, make new ones, even impossible ones. Her ideas were always about moving the school, to a greater place. She made a lasting impression on me. Denise hired me, starting from the main office. Believed I could make a change in the lives of children. She dedicated her life to change lives.”

Burg recalls the last interaction with Vittor stating, “The last time I spoke to Ms. Vittor was when I told her I loved her and all she had done for me. She said to me ‘don’t say that,’ and I said: ‘Why? It’s true.’ She responded back, ‘nope, I’m coming back tomorrow.’ I went Sunday afternoon and she was unconscious, when I went in. I said, ‘Hi Denise, it’s Melissa’ and she smiled. And that was really it.”

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Senior attending Queens Tech.
Mr. Raynor purchased colored chalk.

Teachers choice gives money to New York City Department Of Education staff members in their paychecks to purchase school supplies of their choice. Teacher’s Choice is a program that started more than 25 years ago through the United Federation of Teachers. The program received two million dollars in funds this year from the Mayor and city council which is derived from taxes.

The staff members will receive the money from Feb. 1st to Jan. 12th, 2020 and a report must be submitted no later than Jan. 17, stating what purchases were made on the staff’s behalf. Any money that the staff did not use must be returned to the Department of Education.

Reports will be reviewed by the Principal and determined if the staff members used the money appropriately. If the Principal declares that it was not, discussion will proceed.

Mr. David subscribed to Nearpod.

Access to things that support his lessons, positive reinforcement, and things that are missing from the class based on the students’ needs. “When we interact with our classes, you start picking up on things that are needed to fill in the gaps,” said Mr. David.

“It’s an amazing opportunity for teachers to be able to purchase resources that we get reimbursed for. Many times teachers spend money out of our pockets on essential items that benefit our students,” stated Ms. Lewis, the school librarian, who has been participating in the program for 16 years. This year she is utilizing the money to get art supplies. “There’s a need for it. Students come in to complete their projects and ask for the items so I have readily available for them,” she said. If she had more than $250, Ms. Lewis states that she would buy, “Every sort of supplies such as colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint, glue, and colorful chalk; students have a need for them and I could use more,” she said.

“Aside from the basic supplies, educators receive, teachers often have to buy additional supplies, which will benefit their students. Teacher’s Choice is an important program, which recognizes that by reimbursing educators for their purchases,” stated Ms. Mualem, the school’s guidance counselor, who has been participating in the program since it started. This year she’ll be using the money to purchase “Desk and organizational supplies this year because in the past they have to be replenished, which is why we don’t purchase them.”

“If she had more than $10, she states that she would, “Buy informational booklets to develop the students and students as well as videos to be shared within our department during our group activities; Videos are expensive and display materials can be costly because they have to be replenished, which is why we don’t purchase them.”

Ms. Rosario-Herber, the nurse at Queens Technical High School, states that it is a helpful program to display outside for waiting parents and students as well as videos to be shared within our department during our group activities.”

Mr. David is one of the after school advisors that Leo Marc is one of the after school advisors that have been working with us for years before they moved in here, even years before I became principal. Having them in our school came about two grants, one being a twenty first century grant and the other being a community schools grant and through both of these grants, we are able to bring these services.” Melissa Burg, principal of Queens Tech said. “I think SCS are a big benefit and I wish more kids would take advantage of these services,” she continued.

Every year, the programs graduating class which includes high school seniors from all around Queens, New York is awarded a total of over $10 million in scholarships and grants. “The idea is not just for students to get into good schools but it’s also to go to college and stay there and thrive,” Wilson said. In the SCS website, it states that five thousand students have been helped by the program.

“The way the SAT classes are structured, it doesn’t suit me or my individual needs because I only needed help in specific topics and the program in general wasn’t a good fit for me but their college prep is amazing. Their personal statement editing helps a lot but just not the SAT prep,” Senior Alexander Herrera said.

“Tuition is a lot, over a thousand dollars for the private college prep I use but I wasn’t able to get in and I couldn’t afford it,” said Senior Jessica Haynes.

“It is a great advantage to have the opportunity to take the SAT in the comfort of your own school,” said Senior Andrew Kim. “I wouldn’t be here without the help of SCS because I wouldn’t have the ability to pay for such a service.”

Leo Marc who works for SCS as a data entry specialist office assistant said, “I want to make sure that students are living up to their full potential, I don’t want to see anyone set the bar lower for themselves and I want to make sure everyone knows that they’re capable of doing a lot more than just what is standard to them.”

“Long story short, Sunnyside Community Services has history with Queens Tech. In 2013-2014, SCS received a one year grant because of the interest of providing college services. ”We ran SAT classes and college prep and it worked out so well that it got funded again for another year and so we did a two year program,” College Readiness Program Director, Peter Wilson said. “There was about a year left so we kept trying to recruit kids because we really liked working with the young people at your school so that’s why when the twenty-first century money and grant came up, this was the first thing I thought of.”

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“I would recommend the college higher than the SAT prep because I feel like a lot of the staff know what they are talking about and they are a big help. The resources they provide are really helpful like the laptops and the books but most importantly, the people there are the biggest resources,” Senior Angelica Diaz said.

“Peter and this program have this magical way of just... the idea of something and exposing you to things opens your whole world,” said Alexis Atkinson, a Program alumni.

Leo Marc is one of the after school advisors that can often be found in the Sunnyside offices.
Celebrating Diversity with Pride

by Daniela Quintero

The Gender and Sexualitiy Alliance, a new club, meets every other Monday in room 351 for the purpose of students of the LGBTQ+ community and straight allius to come together to provide a safe environment.

Mr. Romano, the English teacher who runs the GSA, believes every school should have a GSA so students struggling with their sexuality or other aspects in their lives have access to talk about difficult topics. “It’s important for students to be exposed to different perspectives, to recognize that we all share the same hardships and obstacles and that we have more in common than what separates us,” he said.

The GSA clubs first started when Kevin Jennings, an American educator, founded it in 1988. He also introduced another organization called Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network or GLSEN.

Janelly Calix, a junior, joined the club because she has a friend that’s part of the LGBTQ+ community. She believes GSA is important because it unites people and is there to “help out the community and people who aren’t comfortable being themselves.”

“I had a friend in there so I was compelled to join to have more time to see them,” George Rodriguez, a sophomore said. Once he joined, Rodriguez had a new outlook on it, “It was not what I expected, it’s more fun, I enjoy it for the conversations and activities we do and I can express myself more.”

Mr. Romano wants the students at the club to “feel a part of the community, make friends, empower one another through our voices and opinions even if they are different.”

It seems like that is being accomplished as Calix enjoys being part of this club due to how you can be yourself, “you don’t have to tweak your personality to be someone you aren’t,” she said.

To Rodriguez, this club means friends, community, acceptance, and mutual understanding and respect. Mr. Romano has big hopes for this club, “I hope bullying meet other students and make friends. As well as bring about change within the community such as more tolerance and showing others there’s nothing wrong about being part of the LGBTQ+ community.”

What inspired Jennings to start the first GSA club was when he was a history teacher and came out as a gay man. One day a student by the name of Meredith went to his office to propose the idea of starting a club that would fight homophobia as her mom was a lesbian and she didn’t like the way her peers degraded her family.

Jennings took her suggestion and that was when GSA became a thing, according to the website americapromise.org.

Student from Queens Technical High School united together on Wednesday, Oct. 29 to spread awareness about National Bullying Prevention Month.

By wearing the color orange, students would spread the message of hope and support against bullying. At the front of the school, leadership students handed out an orange band to Queens Tech high schoolers that want to support this annual tradition. Students would have positive and encouraging messages written on their orange band. “It helps students come out and seek help,” said Senior Jenni Zumba, from leadership.

Among high school students, 15.5 percent are cyberbullied by Dayana Iniguez and 20.2 percent are bullied on school grounds, according to Dayana Iniguez. Bullying is not usually a simple interaction between students. Instead, it often involves groups of students who target each other bullying other students. Queens Tech is one of the 17 hundred public schools that participated in Unity Day that promoted kindness, inclusion, and acceptance of everyone.

“It’s something that should continue. The school cares about what the students are going through,” said Junior Jowan Al Salem.

The school this year showed support with its Leadership program. Members organized Wednesday morning. The rich filled school was covered in orange from the window to the door. Everyone came together in one giant orange message of hope and support, visibly showing that no student is alone.

Unity Day was started by PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center. It was first celebrated on October 21, 2011.

Anderson Cooper was the first person that promoted the event and said, “I have fun while im there and I”

Anti-Bullying Day originated in Canada in 2007, where people wore a pink, blue, or purple shirts on Feb. 27th to stand against bullying. The United Nations declared the official Anti-Bullying Day at May 4, starting in 2012.

Junior Diana Calderon who’s also part of the club agrees. She wants the club to bring awareness to the community as there are students that are struggling with their sexuality and have had no one there for them which has led to tragedies such as them taking their own life and she wouldn’t want them to do that.

GSA has only met a few times in the cafeteria where they informed other students part of it are interested in the club, “I hope students meet and some activities Mr. Romano would like to see students do that. GSA the students are able to be transparent and as open as they want to stay hidden,” she said.

In addition, students were able to write a “love message” that were then posted around the school.

The club is student oriented and some activities Mr. Romano has planned are going on trips, organizing game nights, movie nights, and anything else the students part of it are interested in doing.

One event that took place was on Dec. 5th. The GSA club posted flyers around the school about a movie night, students who saw Mr. Romano and payed S5 which included snacks were able to watch Love, Simon.

Calix’s favorite activity was the collage, “we got to do collages that represent ourselves, we were able to express ourselves and not hide anything from the people in the club, it was fun” she said. In GSA, the students are able to be transparent and as open as they want without facing judgment from their peers. Calix wants this club to help students feel more comfortable being themselves. She wants people to be more open with who they are and not hide behind a mask that society makes them feel like they have to do.

Calderon joined because she wanted our school to be joined together. “Every school deserves a GSA, if not people wouldn’t feel supported or like they weren’t part of anything in a way, they’d want to stay hidden,” she said.

She believes this club provides a safe place you can hangout and is fun as you’re able to participate in school activities that let you express school spirit.

This club is looking for more members. Only about ten students show up at the meetings. It’s open to all students regardless of their sexual orientation.

After Jennings introduced GSA, middle schools, high schools, and universities have adopted it, primarily in Canada and the United States.

The exact number of schools that provide this club is not clear as many are started or ended, however, “At least 40 states across the country have reported having GSA clubs in their high schools and middle schools,” the website, glsen.org said.

This website provides resources, training, and networking opportunities for students who wish to start or run a GSA.
Students from Queens Technical High School participated in the annual Breast Cancer walk on Oct. 20 in Flushing Meadow Park to raise awareness of breast cancer.

Starting in 2003, the Breast Cancer walk, through the organization, American Cancer Society, against Breast Cancer, has become a tradition for QT students. Since then, every year in October, students are invited to join the “Queens Tigers” team. Once signed up, members receive a canister to gather donations.

This year, over 65 students signed up within the first two days. The total number of registrations was 106 students. Implemented by the school’s Leadership, students were encouraged to try and raise at least $50. In the past, students would travel around the school asking for donations. However, starting next year, there could be possible changes on how the money will be raised. Services such as babysitting will be advertised rather than just asking for donations.

This year when signing up to join the Breast Cancer walk, Mr. Vega and Leadership suggested raising money through services, however, not many students followed the request continuing the tradition of raising money through donations.

In total, $6,907 was raised, for Breast Cancer. Students surpassed the $5,000 goal signifying the $5,000 organization goal earning a gold banner.

Mr. Zagada as well as our Principal Matzelle, as well as our Principal said Jennifer.

In total Edwardo raised $25, and Litzy raised $47. “I think part of the reason I didn’t achieve the goal was because many people donated to others who were collecting money earlier than me I thought I was making it,” said Edwardo.

On the day of the walk not only students participated but our very own teachers, Ms. Ferrara and Mr. Matzelle, as well as our Principal Ms. Burg took time out of their day to participate in the walk.

Zambrotta contributed to the Breast Cancer walk.

Making a Mark

Students believed that there was a complaint made by the neighborhood, which is why the art was taken down. "There was no complaint made about it,” Alrikas said. “The outside of the school building was not the appropriate place for it.” He explained how he loves student expression, but the outside of the building was not the place for it since it would invite trouble.

The school administration has recently put up boards inside the school for students to be able to express themselves and their artwork.

Several teachers in Queens Tech voiced their support in the students’ artwork.

“I wish it stayed on the walls longer. Or that they had designated space for the event. Some of the artwork was amazing,” Coach Devaux said.

Ms. Vecp hoped that the artwork would’ve stayed up a few days, but it had to be taken down.

Queens Technical Gets Clinical

by Jenifer Hernandez

Ms. Lingstyn’s senior cosmetology class at Queens Tech have been welcoming students and teachers to their shop class during 1st, 2nd and 3rd period, every Wednesday, to receive a hair service, manicure and a makeup look.

The Senior Cosmetology class has been able to demonstrate their skills to the whole school in their own salon, The Exquisite Salon.

Approximately 100 students are attending each Wednesday for a service. Each client that walks in is given the attention and respect they would be given in a real life salon. As they enter they are escorted to the receptionist where they sign in and are told to wait patiently for an available stylist. If made an appointment beforehand they have the privilege to be attended before walk-ins. Once the client is seated, it is all about them and it’s in the stylist hands to make them happy with the end result.

The senior cosmetology class, all work together as a team to give a career class experience.

“Working with live clients is a nice experience because not like my manikin, I have someone to talk during the process,” said Kimberly Juarez, a senior cosmetologist.

Throughout the entire classroom you see each girl hard at work and seem to be passionate, “Our clinic days promote growth and experience for all of us and allows everyone to have a free service. It’s great for everyone!” said Emily Grosso, a senior cosmetologist.

The Senior Cosmetology class have put in all their effort during their clinic days and have had many happy clients. “I asked for a haircut and I was in love with it, it was so light and flowy,” said Kimberly Juarez, a freshman.

Many clients have loved the service they received, that they return the following week. Due to many students enjoying these clinic days, the senior class plan to continue and share their skills.

Working Based Learning Offsite at Cooper Union

by Tina Zheng

Students at Queens Tech have an opportunity to take a work based learning program available for two semesters at The Cooper Union spanning from October to April.

“They actually reached out to us, the school. They email us, and we just print out the flyers,” Ms. Zagada said.

This program is a free architecture and art program for all students in Pre-Engineering. Classes are on Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

Students are exposed to intensive discipline, techniques and concepts for both beginners and students with prior art experience. The students do not need prior experience, only motivation and a written application,” Ms. Zagada, the work based learning coordinator says.

Engaging in this program allows for more artistic development of the students and helps them mainly focus on boosting their skills in whatever they learn.

However, “there were only two to three students that applied goal was achieved, the school’s personal goal wasn’t. Taking the average of the amount of money raised from previous years, this year’s goal was set to $7,500. The goal fell short by $593. The most profitable year for Queens Technical is 2016 when about 100 students signed up and raised $9,276.

On the day of the walk Mr. Vega, new mayor of Flushing, woke up at 4:30 am in order to prepare. At 7:30 am students began to arrive. Breakfast, consisting of bagels and croissants were offered by Mr. Vega and the school.

In total, 83 students participated in the walk. It was nice to walk and have a good time with friends plus the environment was very positive.” The Breast Cancer brought me a sense of joy by seeing people come together for a good cause, “said student Jennifer Garibay.

The weather was amazing, it gave me the opportunity to enjoy the walk. Despite not knowing each other we all demonstrated love and kindness to each other, “said Litzy.

“My favorite part of the walk was the school chant that we did while walking, I actually felt like our school through it and showed pride of where we come from,” Zagada said.

Ms. Zagada says, “It is an open opportunity for students if they want this to “pursue a career in, or just to gain experience outside of the classroom, and they get to meet different people aside from teachers. It’d also help them with their soft skills,” she concluded. Students here are exposed to many opportunities that can be used to their advantage in their life.

Other than skills, students also get a taste of how to interact with new people and you may make new friends and miss the chance to make friends and build relationships with others.

Fabrizio Pirolo, a junior at Queens Tech is enrolled in the program and is currently working on making sculptures and arts and crafts. “At first I didn’t know about it, but my friend told me about it, so we both applied together,” Pirolo says.

“I enjoy meeting new people. The community, people, and the teachers are all nice. It also gives me skills that I learned from them. It was a nice experience overall, I concluded.”

“Drones: Ingcoming!” by Ian Bartragan

This upcoming spring, the senior Pre-Engineering class of Queens Tech will have a new addition to their curriculum.

The class will be taught by Trisha Ramdeo, an electronics teacher and the CTE coordinator for Queens Tech. The course will be an introductory level coding to drones such as DroneBloks, Tello, and Python with a focus on Drone Technology.

The coding programs, being only introductory, will be remade for the drone style coding that is used in Scratch, a block-based visual program that teaches the basic concepts of coding to kids of all ages. Throughout the duration of the course, the students can expect to leave the school to test their code and end up.

In an effort to make senior year for Pre-Engineering students less certification heavy, the Pre-Engineering class, said Ms. Ramdeo, “Fiber Optics moved down to junior year while senior year is focusing on better equipping students with practical skills needed to join the workforce. This way we can still keep our students focused as it’s their last year and senioritis is a real thing.”

Major companies such as Amazon, Shell Oil Refinery, and Walmart all utilize drone technology. Amazon uses drones to deliver packages. To keep up with the ever changing status quo, the Pre-Engineering class and possibly other shops in the future are getting new courses. However due to the cost of the materials needed for the existing courses which the school offers, new additions to the curriculum are still a ways away.

"It sounds like an exciting course. I was a bit disappointed that it will be only for this year. I would have loved for it last both junior and senior year,” said Billy Chan, a senior.

“It is gonna be something different than last year, it is going to be more fascinating and challenging,” said Senior Erik Fonseca.

Students at Queens Tech have the privilege to be able to go and get a learn at Cooper Union via the V ocational & Technical  Education Act, its courses via the V ocational & Technical  Education Act, or VAT[EA] as known as the Karl Perkins grant. “Money was put aside specifically for introducing new technology to the Pre-Engineering class and Ms. Ramdeo in regards to the funding of the program. As of now the any money the school receives from VAT[EA] is $215,492, according to Mr. Alrikas, assistant principal. “The money received is decided by our principals and program need,” said Mr. Alrikas.

“It sounds like an exciting course,” he added, “but we’re just excited that it will be only for this year. I would have loved for it last both junior and senior year,” said Billy Chan, a senior.

“It is gonna be something different than last year, it is going to be more fascinating and challenging,” said Senior Erik Fonseca.

Students from Queens Technical High School participated in the annual Breast Cancer walk on Oct. 20 in Flushing Meadow Park to raise awareness of breast cancer.

Starting in 2003, the Breast Cancer walk, through the organization, American Cancer Society, against Breast Cancer, has become a tradition for QT students. Since then, every year in October, students are invited to join the “Queens Tigers” team. Once signed up, members receive a canister to gather donations.

This year, over 65 students signed up within the first two days. The total number of registrations was 106 students. Implemented by the school’s Leadership, students were encouraged to try and raise at least $50. In the past, students would travel around the school asking for donations. However, starting next year, there could be possible changes on how the money will be raised. Services such as babysitting will be advertised rather than just asking for donations.

This year when signing up to join the Breast Cancer walk, Mr. Vega and Leadership suggested raising money through services, however, not many students followed the request continuing the tradition of raising money through donations.

In total, $6,907 was raised, for Breast Cancer. Students surpassed the $5,000 goal signifying the $5,000 organization goal earning a gold banner.

Mr. Zagada as well as our Principal Matzelle, as well as our Principal said Jennifer.

In total Edwardo raised $25, and Litzy raised $47. “I think part of the reason I didn’t achieve the goal was because many people donated to others who were collecting money earlier than me I thought I was making it,” said Edwardo.

On the day of the walk not only students participated but our very own teachers, Ms. Ferrara and Mr. Matzelle, as well as our Principal Ms. Burg took time out of their day to participate in the walk.

Zambrotta contributed to the Breast Cancer walk.

Making a Mark

Students believed that there was a complaint made by the
Mr. Valdez with Jimbo, Pooran, Singh, and Waszczyzk who participated in the program.

QT Shakes Hands With TF Cornerstone
by Christopher Peguero

Various students from Queens Tech have been given the opportunity to work with the company TF Cornerstone, a real estate developer that develops high-rise buildings in New York City, to design a Luxury highrise building in Long Island City.

TF Cornerstone is a real estate business that was established in the year 1970, and has since erected many fixtures in the New York City area.

Cisco Networking teacher, Mr. Valdez, reached out to the company with the intent of basing an internship in Amazon's first headquarters in Long Island City. After Amazon decided not to continue the project, Mr. Valdez stayed in contact with TF Cornerstone and developed the current internship. Since Queens Tech students were supposed to work with TF Cornerstone in a paid internship to assist in the modeling and designing aspect of the planned Amazon center, the company decided to not let the opportunity they have given students at our school go to waste.

“I want students to be part of the process of buildings, and be inspired. This is something we as

Mr. Valdez with Jimbo, Pooran, Singh, and Waszczyzk who participated in the program.
**The swipe system is a good indicator of who is in the building for the day.**

**How is Our Present Attendance System?**

by Sheikhi Arian

Recent changes are currently in effect in Queens Technical High School, with students coming to school more often, increasing the average attendance rate due to recently implemented programs of raffles and posters that encourage students to be present and on-time.

Schools record attendance by having teachers perform roll-calls. Students who are late or absent are noted as so in the attendance sheet, which is eventually handed to school officials.

However, some students in the fifth to twelfth grade take the trend that has been in effect. "...for years here, we have definitely noticed an increase, with more students staying in the building for their entire school day. In comparison to the 2017-2018 school year, the 2018-2019 school year has seen an increase of about two percent, a steady trend that has in effect. ..."for our school, attendance has been improving steadily each year," said Mr. Alikakos. It is hard to tell for sure but what I'm seeing it looks like our attendance numbers will do better this year now.

Queens Tech has implemented programs encouraging students to stay the whole period for their schedule, such as gift cards, and encouraging messages.

In order to get these new pushed for the students to be present and on-time, they have provided flyers that have appeared in hallways that promote proper schedule, such as gift cards, and stay in the building for their entire school day.

"Students who are late or absent have teachers perform roll-calls. Students who are late or absent are noted as so in the attendance sheet, which is eventually handed to school officials." said Mr. Alikakos. It is hard to tell for sure but what I'm seeing it looks like our attendance numbers will do better this year now.

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The school has been increasing its technical support. "Working five years here, we have definitely gotten better, especially compared to other schools," said Mr. Valdez. To determine how outdated a computer is, Mr. Valdez believes it depends on the function of the machine. To hold up a CTE class setting such as A+ Cisco or Cybersecurity, he believes the computers should be updated every three years; while daily function computers should be updated every five years.

These advances have created a professional setting for the students of Queens Technical High School. Some categories are being more drastic, positive change in the school. "I feel like it's going to be worse before than students aren't really motivated towards their education," he continued. Others, believe that attendance will increase compared to previous years. "I feel like with the first years, sophomores and freshmen, they would want these prizes and want to be on time," said Ricky Chang, another senior student.

With the addition of these new programs, the students of Queens Tech might be more obligated to attend. The future of Queens Technical High School may see a more drastic, positive change in the average attendance rating for students, especially if there's a chance you can get rewards that provide free meals and supplies.

Some students are not functional at the age of the computers are present. Looking into the specifics of the business computers, the computers have four GBs of RAM and were bought in 2015. Tech Squad was dedicated to keeping the computers and other devices up and running. A+ instructor Ms. Zagada; former President of Tech Squad, ran student maintenance teams.

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Ms. Mialous' AP Drawing class at Queens Technical High School has been cancelled for the 2018-2019 school year due to "she doesn't have enough room in her schedule to teach the course. According to College Board, AP Drawing is described as "an introductory college-level drawing course. Students refine and develop their ideas and ideas throughout the course to produce drawings." Students develop their art skills and build a portfolio that will be submitted at the end of the course in May.

The class was meant to help students develop their art skills further and help build a portfolio of their own. Students here at Queens Tech plan on attending art colleges and a requirement for those colleges is a portfolio with 8-15 pieces of different artwork.

The portfolio for the class consists of two separate categories with 12 pieces each. One category contains different showcases, art styles, and art mediums. In the second section, the student had to choose a theme for their art and reflect that theme in all their art pieces.

Twenty-four of the submissions were digital and five pieces were mailed to the AP board.

Student Jessica Castillo said that the class would have been tremendously "because then I wouldn't have to rush my portfolio right now."

Only about eighteen students were accepted into the AP Studio Art during the 2017-2018 school year. The class was taught during eighth period by Ms. Mialous and had students from 10th-12th grade. Student Ranely Peña said that the class, "was stress-free and very useful.

Ms. Mialous encouraged students in previous years who did well in their regular art class to sign the interest sheet at the end of the last school year. The class would be more rigorous than the regular art class taught here at Queens Tech.

"Compared to a regular art class it was less students so it was more one on one time for all the students. It was students who chose to be there, wanted to be there because they had interest art," is how Ms. Mialous would describe the AP Drawing class.

"I feel like my art class as a period where the kids can come and explore a more creative outlet," said Ms. Mialous. "You have the opportunity to express yourself in art form instead of writing. Looking at things in a different way which helps in every aspect of life.

The art here at Queens Tech is all around the school. Ms. Mialous has five bulletin boards and Ms. Volpe has about five bulletin boards all filled with student art. All the new bulletin boards being put up are going to be full of artwork. There is an art class that started recently and murals are in the works for the third floor. The art is present all around us here at Queens Tech. Students who are late or absent have teachers perform roll-calls. Students who are late or absent are noted as so in the attendance sheet, which is eventually handed to school officials.

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Jacked On Juul

By Nour Aayla

The Disease Control and Prevention Association reported on Tuesday, October 29 that thirty seven vaping related deaths have been confirmed in 24 states. The epidemic of vaping has made its way to high schools and to Queens Tech. It imitates a concentrated form of nicotine to influence individuals, and in time become addicted.

Ms. Mises, a SPARK counselor at Queens Tech, said, “Every generation has a wave, the SPARK program began when the epidemic in New York City was coke and crack, it moved to an opioid addiction, then to edibles and experimenting different ways to consume drugs, to recently being e-cigarettes, which are now popularized,” she continues on the notion that Juuling has always been “around,” just was different based on time and trends.

“I initially it came to be to help people to reduce their traditional tobacco and nicotine use from regular cigarettes,” she says. The global outbreak has also shifted to Queens Tech, creating a new euphoric environment to the students, and in school places like the girls’ and boys’ bathrooms, locker room, staircases, and sometimes in classrooms.

“You know, I can get one at the bodega, it doesn’t smell, it’s easy to hide, and I won’t get caught, no one will see.” Mises agrees with Stavroula saying, “Absolutely, Juul has affected society, they have not only Juul’s Tech but, every other high school in New York City, I’m going to go beyond that and say every high school in the United States of America.”

“What was learned about the research and information that smoking causes cancer and is a hazard to ones’ health took a decade to do with traditional cigarettes, vaping is doing it in a matter of a month,” Mises added.

“Juuling did such an amazing job branding themselves that now instead of saying vaping, or electronic cigarettes, we say Juuling. The same way when we say Hershey, we think of chocolate, the same way when we think of Coka-Cola, we think of soda,” she says. There are fifteen known carcinogens in a pod that cause chronic-like diseases. One vapor pod is equal to one box of traditional cigarettes.

Dr. Gulam Khan, gastroenterologist at Clerisy Private Medical Center in Long Island City states that the effects of vaping create, “benzoic acid, which is known to cause coughs, sore throat, abdominal pain nausea, and vomiting when exposed to constant, inhalation of vaping. This is due to how Juuls utilize the properties of benzoic acid: to increase the potency of nicotine salts in its e-liquid.”

Nurses at Queens Tech, also agree with Dr. Khan, adding that vaping also affects the brain, saying “add the mental and brain aspect of taking drugs.” Although, the epidemic of Juuling is continuing to terrorize and cause deaths in the United States, there are multiple organizations that are giving light to the issue, including the truth initiative, and the FDA’s attempts to ban e-cigarettes. SPARK counselor Mises says it is: “Too little, too late. This generation has never been introduced to the idea of Juuling. A campaign is designed to prohibit use through education and conversation, not attack the problem when it is already there.” She continues to give the remark for the efforts saying, “while it is a valiant effort, Juul knew what they were doing. Juul distributed one million Juuls, knowingly and willingly to the mass media.”

Having an addiction to vaping is also directly related to commercial companies benefit to induce adolescents for their economic benefit. “Companies target adolescents with their commercial, using things like Spongeholz, bright colors, and as simple as seeing your favorite artists holding it; these are the visuals that are so common that they’re normalized,” said Ms. Mieses.

Additionally, the greater number of youngsters watching Juuling commercials, the increased amount of expenses the company would get, and then the exposure to Juuling would be on their childhood.

On November 13, it was declared nationally: the age restriction of buying e-cigarettes will range from 18 to 21.

The SPARK department gives light to drug addiction, gender empowerment, and other programs relating to individual abuse. Ms. Mises says, “there are different steps that are important to know about addiction, with two steps including: the first being to identify the problem yourself, and the second to talk to someone you trust about the problem, and together, it is the first step combatting an addiction.”

The epidemic of Juuling has been in the news around the world, the news has been covered in newspapers, with the hashtag #BTSLoveMyself being spread across social media and the hashtag has been used over 2 million times. Throughout the Love Yourself Concert at Citi Field, Namjoon stated, “So I’m going to say one thing: please use me. Please use BTS to love yourself. Because you guys taught me how to love myself Everyday.”

“There is a huge language barrier, but you don’t have to understand to have the feeling because pain is still pain in different language, the same thing you feel,” said QT Senior, Afifa Khan.

As of June 30, the campaign’s global accumulated funds total stands at KRW 2.4 billion, just over $2 million USD. The young generation struggles with self-esteem issues because of the influence of social media and the idea of fitting in. According to the Children’s Mental Health website, “7.1% of children aged 3-17 years (approximately 4.4 million) have diagnosed anxiety.”

“In my opinion, many young people struggle to try to fit in when they should embrace who they are,” said Ms. Lewis, the librarian of Queens Tech.

BTS has used the “Love Myself” campaign to help millions of teens around the world by promoting self-acceptance and anti-bullying through their music and influence.

Queens Tech Around The World

We travelled the halls of Queens Technical High School and asked students where the best place they have ever visited and why. Here are some of their responses:

Annolpreet Kaur
Freshman

Cancun, Mexico
“It’s really different from New York.”

Christopher Araujo
Freshman

Boston, Massachusetts
“Because of the diversity.”

Montserrat Velazquez
Sophomore

Chicago, Illinois
“Most of my family lives there and I love them alot.”

Ashley Aucancela
Junior

South Korea
“I like it a lot because I like reuniting with my family over there.”

Kimberly Zhaguary
Senior

Florida
“It has a lot of amusement parks and I love rollercoasters.”

The Washington Post
Due to the increase in Metro fare, families are compelled to jump or duck under turnstiles.

Good-Bye, Neighborhood!

by Kendrick Roy

All across the United States, tenants and renters are being forced out of their homes because of the increase in property value. This is caused by higher income individuals moving into various neighborhoods, as well as big businesses setting up shop around these neighborhoods.

In New York City, 12 percent of lower income neighborhoods are facing massive tax increases and an increase in living costs. This results in the middle class of New Yorkers migrating out of New York City in search of better homes. With this happening, those in poverty are taking up those homes that the middle class are leaving behind.

With lower income residents moving into better neighborhoods, small businesses start to set up in those areas, thus bringing up the cost of living. Because of this, the New York government decided to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour so that lower income residents can find it easier to pay for their living expenses.

Although the average income of New Yorkers has increased to $50,000 an hour and is projected to have another increase in the next decade, the cost of living is rising exponentially. This results in lower income neighborhood residents not being able to keep up with the rise in living costs, ultimately forcing them to move.

As of today, the average cost of living in Manhattan is estimated at around $3,500 for rent per month, which is 148 percent higher than the average of other cities.

However, others might see this occurrence to have a more positive outcome on society as a whole. “Property values rising, more businesses coming in, and more government support for that area,” says Mr. Malik, one of the student teachers at Queens Technical High School.

With more government funding for that area, gentrification in New York can be quickly refurbished to become attractive to people who will be able to afford housing in these neighborhoods. This is not only witnessed in the United States and in big cities. Gentrification takes place in countries across the world. Sometimes the driving factor isn’t only money. For example, in the late 1800s of Russia, many people immigrated out because of major discrimination for certain religious and racial groups by the government and surrounding society. For instance, around 111,000 Jewish Russians migrated from Russia because of major discrimination from their society, and moved to the United States in 1891.

Gentrification affects primarily those of lower income and of low social standing, causing them to relocate to different neighborhoods. Because of this, the neighborhoods that evict those of lower income and low social standing are publicly scrutinized. Scientists, helping improve our planet by spreading awareness through continuous research, strikes, and protests.

Families and environmental activist Robert Redford, whose a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council, stated “I’ve very encouraged by this new generation. They’re better informed, they’re more knowledgeable, and the more they know about the environment, the more they get concerned, because it’s going to be their future.”

Ways you can help the environment, and contribute to this urgent matter is by unpluging any electronics that may not be in use, converting compact fluorescent lightbulbs, waste as little food as possible, try growing your fruits and vegetables.

Due to the increase in Metro fare, families are compelled to jump or duck under turnstiles.

Is the Fare Fair?

by Kevin Shaholli

Fare evasion in New York City is on the rise and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) wants to take action. According to CBSSN, "The fare evasion rate on the subway lines in New York City in January to March was 25 percent, up from 24.2 percent in the final quarter of 2018."

The current fare for one ride on an MTA bus or train is $2.75. MetroCards allow a free transfer for the first two hours after you swipe (some exceptions may apply with specific buses). They also come in a variety of rides, like weekly and monthly, and SingleRide, but usually come with an extra dollar added onto the price.

Free full-fare MetroCards are offered to many children that live half a mile or more away from school and they are continuing to offer it to all K-12 children. This costs the MTA around $200,000 a year for three rides plus transfers a day for each child.

For New York’s teachers, New York City Transit offers the WageWorks commuter card program. Employees can receive rides for reduced fees to get to work without having to manage the normal costs of their commute. In fact, our very own Mr. Nadler had this to say about the program: “It reduces my tax. It takes the money out of my gross pay and lowers my net so I get taxed less.”

Anyone 65 or older can apply for the older乘客(Free Rides for New Yorkers) program that allows unlimited riding during off-peak hours (before 6 a.m. and after 9 p.m.), on peak hours (6 a.m. to 9 p.m.) for $1.50, or on weekends and holidays for $2.75.

The governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, sent 500 officers to 50 bus routes and 50 subway stations where evasion is high. Additionally, more video cameras have been set in place to catch fare evaders and signs everywhere discouraging the act.

New Yorkers responded. On Nov. 1, there was a mass turnstile hop in Brooklyn to protest a police altercation in the subway. Street signs, buildings, and buses were vandalized during the event. The NYPD fought back. Now, many people are facing arrest or $100 summonses.

According to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, “about 97 percent of climate scientists have concluded that human-caused climate change is happening.”

Emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases from fossil fuel combustion, pollution, and the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil are rising.

In 2000, about 13,000 Americans were dying from coal pollution. Today, that number is down to 7,500, and the reason is that nearly half of U.S. coal plants have closed or switched to cleaner sources of power," said former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Climate change leads to more heat stress, and an increase in waterborne disease, that is spread by insects and rodents, not to mention an increase in smog that irritates lungs, triggers cardiovascular disease, kidney, and respiratory disorders.

The ocean is also becoming more acidic, affecting marine life. As sea levels rise due to thermal expansion cause glaciers and ice sheets to melt, putting coastal areas at greater risk of erosion. “Global sea level has risen by about eight inches since reliable record-keeping began in 1880. It is projected to rise another one to four feet by 2100,” stated a representative from NASA.

Despite all of this, there are non-profit organizations like GreenPeace USA, NextGen Climate, and Union of Concerned Scientists, helping improve our planet by spreading awareness through continuous research, strikes, and protests.

Ways you can help the environment, and contribute to this urgent matter is by unpluging any electronics that may not be in use, converting compact fluorescent lightbulbs, waste as little food as possible, try growing your fruits and vegetables.

The Mission to Mars

by Muaz Rehman

As of August 15 SpaceX has begun the construction of a special spacecraft in their mission to colonize Mars by the year 2030. The aerospace company, which has been the leading advancement in space exploration for the past decade, is currently building an interplanetary spacecraft for Mars. This spacecraft, named Starship, will be able to launch 100 passengers and large amounts of cargo to and from the Red Planet.

“I believe Starship will allow us to make a giant advancement in our mission to colonize Mars,” says Elon Musk, C.E.O and founder of SpaceX.

Before Starship can launch to Mars, it will start of launching commercial satellites as early as 2023. Musk said, “We plan to finish Starship and the next is Mars.”

SpaceX’s plans for the colonization of Mars have progressed tremendously in the past five years and the commercial space industry is the closest humankind has gotten to the mission of colonizing Mars.

Digging Into Regents

by Jennifer Amedano

Twenty one percent of middle schoolers, approximately one fourth of 8th graders take the Regents and fifty eight percent of high school students took the regents across New York State. Regents determine whether you are able to proceed to the next grade, if you failed or haven’t taken any specific core regents then it can hold you back from graduating.

“I’m not a testing person which leads me to fail my regents exams,” said senior Ashley Rodriguez.

In order to pass these exams, one would need a 65 percent and if you want to fall within the category of “Advanced Regent,” then the score would be an 80 percent or higher.

“When I’m in class everything seems easy to me, but when I take the test I’m able to understand but when I take regents everything seems to be different. It gets me frustrated to see that I wasn’t able to pass,” senior Evelyn Sandoval said.

Based on a poll conducted at Queens Technical, approximately one in four students appreciate the opportunity that they have with regents. They imply it can help them get into a college that specifically looks at regents scores and to prove how focused and passionate they are at learning and memorizing things that can be very adequate for a big career.

"It helps me to give a better advantage in getting into colleges and future careers are able to see how hard I push myself when it comes to education and work,” Senior Elias Martinez stated.

Regents will still continue and there are no announcements of its removal, in that note there is an upcoming regents week.

Be prepared by going over your notes the night before, get a good night’s sleep, have a good breakfast and arrive on time.

GOOD LUCK!
Here at Queens Tech, we have students and faculty with wide varieties of talents and lives that sometimes go overlooked. We want to take a moment at the The Technical Truth to celebrate the accomplishments of the entire population of the building.

New QT’s in the Family!
Birth Announcements

Congratulations
Ms. Panayiotou
for the birth of
Theodore Tziotkos
on October 21, 2019
7lbs 6ozs
and 20.3 inches

Congratulations
Ms. Yanovsky
for the birth of
Damien Jopshio Lorenzo
on August 28th, 2019
8lbs 5ozs
and 21.5 inches

Shoutouts

Ms. Lewis would like to congratulate Ms. Morgan Thomas whose son started his Freshman year at Cornell University last fall.

Ms. Valdez and Ms. Zagada would like to congratulate the four students who completed their internship at TF Cornerstone last month:
Edwin Jimbo
Marisa Posran
Tarshan Singh
Adam Waszczyszak

Ms. Verderosa would like to congratulate Ms. Cautela, who finished the TESL program at St. John’s! She worked very hard to complete her program.

Ms. Karabelas says Congratulations to our first college acceptances!

Angelina Hernandez
Sunny Plattsburgh
Abigail Giron
Mercy college

ARISTA and the Queens Tech staff and students who donated to ARISTAS toy fundraiser. A total of $1380 was raised and 168 items were purchased; which will be given to Memorial Sloan Kettering Children’s Cancer enter.

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Sudoku

8 1 3 7
2 4 6 1
7 3 9 5
5 8 1 6

Word Search

Find the names of some of your favorite teachers.

MORGAN  DEVAUX
MCLEAN  OCAMPO
KARABELAS  DASTOLFO
MCDOWL  HAR-GARAFANO  RINGTON
WHYTE  DONOFRIO
ABREU  NADLER
DIMECH  BURKHART
JACKSON  GORMAN
RAYNOR  CAREY

Poetry Corner

Us Behind Masks
Angelina Morroco
Every morning we look into the mirror and everyone sees Something different. Someone sees big bright smiles and others with dark circles under the eyes.

Someone is shining with happiness and someone is just an empty shell without emotions. Some go to work or school with that bright smile from the morning, but someone has to think which mask she will wear today.

Most see us and think that we are happy with our lives, but those are only masks. Masks that hide us from the world.

And why do we wear masks? I wear them to protect myself, to hide my weak self. We wear masks to make other people proud.

So the question is: Do you really want me to stop hiding behind my masks when I’m broken? Do you want me to break down because of my past?

Do you really want to see this side of me? I don’t think so.

Graphic 1

Squeaker Sketches

Thoughts I Had In Mind
Kelly Vargas
I guess my pain will never go away Oh why do I get myself into this mess? Every single mistake I make it’s just repeating and repeating and repeating over itself.

It takes awhile to forget I would just go to my dark place Wiping the tears coming down my face

Seeing myself in pain is heartbreaking I always think of talking to someone

But I worry about what people would say I still have hope that everything will be ok Just that I don’t know where to start I don’t want to look back at the past By looking at the past It’s like everything is happening all over again When I get the courage to talk to someone I was able to talk about my past Even though it made me emotional I feel like I can go through anything

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Do you really want to see this side of me? I don’t think so.
The boys gathered around Segundo Ojeda in terrible weather at Randall's Island Field. It rained the entire game, but the team played on.

Tigers Roar Until the End

by Noor Aayla

The boys gathered around Segundo Ojeda in terrible weather at Randall’s Island Field. It rained the entire game, but the team played on.

Tigers Roar Until the End

by Noor Aayla

The referee blew his whistle at 12PM at Randall’s Island Field on November 5, 2019 signaling the beginning of the last game for the Queens Technical Soccer Team against John Adams.

The Queens Tech Soccer Team had thrived this season, defeating major teams that dominated the Soccer league, like the MLK school; creating a new legacy in Queens Tech. Coach Raushan describes the last game as being, “a heartbreaker.” John Adams played a strategic game. The 1st half of the game, they played a very defensive game. During ‘Sudden Death’ none of the teams scored. Finally, during the penalty shootout, John Adams played a strategic game. During ‘Sudden Death’ none of the teams scored. Finally, during the penalty shootout, John Adams scored the first penalty. My job is to bring everybody up. Every game we played, we played with our heart.”

Senior goal-keeper Leonel Bravo says that the pressure on the last game was, “terrifying, I was so scared but determined of the game, because everything came down to this. I wanted to win this not only for myself but for my family.”

Bravo continues, saying, “this was the best season year yet, because Queens Tech haven’t made it this far in Division. We won Division B, but that was before I came to Queens Tech. It was a great accomplishment, knowing I made history in this school, not just here but that I could pass it down to people who will be here in the future, for motivation.”

Coach Raushan continues to talk about the success of the team saying, “I was fortunate enough to have a very talented and gifted Assistant Coach Bryan Balladare. He is an alumni of the school and won the Division B championship for Queens Tech. He has been by my side in all the games and all the practice. He offered his time to the team selflessly, he didn’t want anything in return. He did it for the love of the game and his love for the school. Many thanks to him.”

“I will never forget that.” Bravo says on the season ending. Senior Celine Gomez, an attendee of the last game against John Adams said she, “came when they were warming up.”

“Honestly, when they began, I felt like they were going to win. There is a lot of pressure, the school is on your shoulders, you’re expected to win. It taken courage, it’s not easy, and I am proud of them,” said Gomez.

Gomez continues: “I didn’t hear a lot about the soccer team before when I first came to Queens Tech, it was always back to back winning or losing. But now, I want to go to the games, because I see the progression they have made.”

The Dance Team Breaks it Down

by Tanha Rani

The lady tigers bowling team has had its most winning season since 2017. With its 7 - 5 win loss ratio, the lady tigers were able to beat the 3 win streak for the last 3 years. “I feel like the season went very well, we went to the playoffs, so it was overall a great season” said Ms. Poltawsky, the Coach of the girls bowling team.

The excitement of the bowling team was present throughout the season. “Being my first year on the bowling team, I see the energy and the hard work the team put in,” said Jessica Pingui, a senior in the girls bowling team, “it is what led us to making it into the playoffs,” she continued.

The team kicked off playoffs enthusiastically, but ultimately lost. Even after the defeat the team spirit was not lost. “I wasn’t bothered by the loss, we came really close and I just look forward to next year,” said Aaura Pena, a junior in the girls bowling team.

Jessica Castillo, a senior, qualified for the individuals and made the top 15 in the city.

“The game was nerve wrecking and the competition was intimidating but I am proud of myself for the medal I earned” said Castillo.

Runesly Peña, a senior, also competed in the individual games. She placed top 15 in the city. “I was very nervous and tried to do my best, but it was definitely one of my best seasons,” said Peña. The team this year will be taking a hit next year from the amount of seniors that will be leaving the team. A total of seven seniors of the eleven members will graduating. “It’s always hard losing your seniors, especially when they have played in previous years,” said Poltawsky.

Poltawsky leads the spirit of the team with her inspiration. “I always believed in my players, if you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything.” said Ms. Poltawsky.

Lady Tigers Strike Back

by David Kumar

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