

all around information

generals 360

2010 Year End Issue

Teacher spotlight: Ms. Braswell

Important Dates

May 11
Athletic Banquet

May 13
Chorus Concert
7:00

May 20
Honors Night
6-7:30 pm

May 22
Eighth Grade
Dance

May 26
Field Day
Sixth & Seventh
Grade

May 27
Eighth Grade
Picnic

May 28
Last Day for
Students
Honors Day

**Veterans
Memorial
Middle School**
13357 Brown Bridge Rd.
Covington, GA 30016
770-385-6893



She's traveled almost all over the world, she's funny, kind, caring and adores her job, and she's also a Georgia Bulldog fan. Who is she? Why, Ms. Joan Braswell of course! "[Ms. Braswell] is an excellent math teacher, she knows how to relate to the students, and explain math. She's just a genuine good person," says Mr. Hollier, one of Ms. Braswell's co-workers. "I love teaching, and I love my students! I've always wanted to be a math teacher, since I was in seventh grade," says Ms. Braswell herself. Before she went to school to become a teacher, Ms. Braswell was originally in college to be an accountant, but remembering how much her seventh, ninth and eleventh grade teachers inspired her, she decided to go back to the University of Georgia and become a math teacher.



Often traveling with her brother, she's been to Italy, Croatia, France, Switzerland, Spain, Great Britain, Poland, Canada, Germany and many other places in the world. Aside from traveling, she loves swimming, biking and adores her dog, Buddy. Although teaching may seem fun, it's not for everyone; Ms. Braswell believes that it takes time and patience with some children. "It's always difficult to have one student, who you know has the potential to succeed, not try," she says. While being interviewed, Ms. Braswell could not express enough how much she loved her career as a teacher. "I love teaching; it's so great when you see the little 'light bulb' in their head go off," says Ms. Braswell.

By Alexis Jones and Perlita Aldava

Things are Blooming at Veterans!

The flowers Veterans' students planted on Patriots Day bloomed beautifully! Over twelve-hundred red and white Georgia Hybrid tulips were planted by sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Mrs. Coleman, who organized the planting in September, says, "Thank you Veterans Memorial Middle students, faculty, and staff for contributing to such beautiful and lasting tribute honoring our fallen troops. A special thank you goes to Brandon Johnson and T.J. Brookman, for maintaining these beautiful flowerbeds."

By Alexis Hale and Brandon Johnson



generals sports

On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!

Veterans' track athletes have been speeding past their competitors this season. Coach West and Coach Bigby are proud of the accomplishments of the 2010 track team. The team finished strong at all of its meets, starting with the meet that was held on Saturday, March 27, 2010. Both the boys and the girls showed some outstanding performances, with someone from Veterans placing in every event! Also, the track team came out among the top in the Newton County League Meet held on Saturday, April 17, 2010!



The girls brought home the first place trophy once again. One of the outstanding performances from the girls was by the 4X100 relay team consisting of Jasmine Thrasher, Precious Price, Mercedes Booker, and Aundrea Lawrence. Also, Alea Nesbit placed first in the 800 meter run, Mercedes Booker placed first in the 400 meter run and shot-put, and Ahkeriya Crawford placed third in shot-put. Ayanna Martin placed third in the two mile run, and Autumn Evans placed third in the mile run. Jasmine Thrasher and Precious Price took first and second in the 100 meter run. Precious Price also took first in the girl's long jump.

Although the boys did not place first, they showed great effort! Some of the outstanding performances from the boys came from Jomandi Smith, who placed first in the long jump, 400 meter run, and the 100 meter run! Curtis Benton placed first in the boys shot-put. Darius Love placed first in the 200 meter run, and Jeremy Branch placed third in the two mile run.

On Saturday, May 1, 2010, the New Rock League Championship was held at Alcovy High School. Neither the boys or girls brought home a first or second place trophy, but they finished strong and the girls missed second place by four points! This year's track team has shown everyone what they are made of and have finished among the top in the region. Ms. West says "I am proud of those students who strived to achieve their personal best this season. Winning the Newton County Championship two years in a row was an awesome accomplishment for the girls! Good luck eighth graders with your future endeavors!" Congratulations to the 2010 Veterans' track team!

By Jacob Carter



Music at the Band Festival

On Thursday, March 18, fifty-two schools from the Metropolitan Atlanta area met to be evaluated on their musical talent. Fifty-five students from Veterans traveled to McNair High School to participate in the event. In the competition, some of the songs that they played included *Marching Matilda*, *Canticum*, and *Amberwood Overture*. The Veterans students practiced twice a week for two and a half months for this competition.

Scoring was based on a scale of one to five points:

- 1- Superior (exceeds every aspect of judging)
- 2- Excellent (everything you are suppose to do)
- 3- Good (acceptable, but some areas need work)
- 4- Fair (major work to do)
- 5- Poor (little understanding of the basics)

Last year, Veterans students received straight twos for the scoring. This year, they were pleased to receive this honor once again.



In other band news, on April 26, Jovontre Lanier and Devin Patton, two students from Veterans, were featured as guest performers at the Newton County Community band's annual spring concert. Together, with two trombone players from other county middle schools, these two Veterans students performed "Trombonaza." Newton County Community band rehearses on Monday nights at Eastside High School and they perform several times throughout the year.

By Anfernee Cruz and Jeremy Rachels



Relay for Life

During the past few months, Veterans participated in numerous fundraisers around the school, including cookie sales, jean days for teachers, a walk-a-thon, and a Pennies War to raise money for a very worthy cause. On April 23, Veterans teachers and students participated in Relay for Life which was held at the Church of Covington, to raise money for a cure for cancer. At the Veterans' tent, drinks, Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, candy and pigs-in-a-blanket were sold along with many other items. Even the cherry Vita-pups were made festive with umbrellas. Veterans received a trophy from Newton Federal Bank for being the 2010 Newton County Relay for Life Top Dollar Middle School. All night long, participants could listen to live music or pace around the luminaries, which were lit and placed in honor or in memory of cancer patients. Different tents also had activities that visitors could participate in including karaoke, face painting, hairstyling, and inflatables. Overall, the night was a huge success and many Veterans students and faculty had a wonderful time.

By Megan Ralston and Ashton Stewart



Seventh grade students walk around the football field at the Walk-a-thon to raise money for Relay for Life.



Luminaries line the track at Relay for Life.



Veterans' Hawaiian themed tent is adorned with a tiki hut and leis

Pennies War

The Pennies War, which raised money for Relay for Life, was fierce this year. Last year, close to \$3,000 was raised by collecting spare change, compared with \$1,149 this year. Veterans' students and teachers were all participants in this fundraiser. The chairpersons were Ms. O' Sullivan, Ms. Mansfield, and Mrs. Braswell. It began March 30, and ended April 23. To motivate students to enlist in the War, the winning homeroom won bragging rights, the honor of being the number one homeroom at Veterans, and an opportunity to have an "old-school recess". The three homerooms and teams that were victorious were Mrs. Braswell for sixth grade, Mr. Helms for seventh grade, and Mrs. O' Sullivan for eighth grade. In addition to the winning homeroom going outside, the team who brings in the most money will get the chance to go outside, also. Finally, Mr. Helms battled Mrs. O' Sullivan's homeroom at a brutal kick-ball game to see who was number one. The war was a great one, and Veterans hopes to have more great victors next year!

By Hannah Jackson and Assata Sanifu

T-Shirt Design Winner Macie Kenney

Congratulations to Macie Kenney for winning the t-shirt design contest for Relay for Life. The design was based on the theme, 'Happy Hawaiian Birthday.' "It took a lot of hard work, and a clear mind, but I really wanted to win." For winning this contest, Macie received a twenty-five dollar gift card and the satisfaction of seeing her design on the Relay t-shirts worn all over the school. Well done, Macie!

By Ajah'lai Edghill and Alea Nesbit



A Trip to Remember

On Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 8:00 am, thirty-six eighth grade students and nine chaperones set out on an adventure they will always remember. Two members of the Generals 360 staff were privileged to be a part of this group. They recalled their unforgettable trip below.

Considering that we had to be at school by 7:30 am, everyone was eager but tired and anxious to get on the road. We drove, and drove, through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and before we knew it we were in Virginia. In order to get to Williamsburg, Virginia we had to cross the river on a very memorable ferry ride. We had the most beautiful and breathtaking view of the sunset.

The next morning, after a 6:30 wake up call and frantic packing, we arrived at Jamestown Settlement where we spent several hours traveling back in time to the 1600s. We learned how settlers and Native Americans cooked their food, how they slept, how they made their clothes, and how they made their fish nets to catch the fish. After leaving Jamestown, we went to Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson.



Blake Jenkins has fun as she models colonial Jamestown attire.



Eighth grade students pose in front of the White House.

On Thursday, April 8, the schedule was packed full of sites to see and things to do. As the bus arrived in Washington D.C., we could see the Pentagon and the Washington Monument from the highway. At the Lincoln Memorial, our assignment was to figure out what age was Abraham Lincoln when he died. In order to do that, we had to count all the steps on his memorial; each step representing a year of his life. In all, there were fifty-nine steps. We were flabbergasted at how monumental his statue was. At the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall, we were each assigned the name of a Veteran, and given a piece of graphite to do a rubbing of the Veteran's name. Our mood was somber as we viewed the never-ending names on the ebony wall. After a walk to the Korean War Memorial, we visited the Holocaust Museum, which was such an eye-opening experi-

ence for us. It was so difficult to grasp the concept of anyone killing people just because of who they are. Later on in the day, we saw the original copies of important documents such as the Constitution, Magna Carta, and Declaration of Independence, all of which were in the National Archives of the United States of America. Our favorite part of the day was viewing The Smithsonian Natural History Museum. Seeing taxidermy animals was amazing. Lastly, everyone in our group posed for a photo at the U.S. Capitol.

On the last day in D.C., we went to the Arlington National Cemetery. There we saw the Pilot's grave of 9/11, the grave of the Unknown Soldier, and watched the changing of the guard. We were able to see Robert E. Lee's house. Everyone on the trip was enthusiastic about getting to see the White House for the first time. Also, by popular vote, we chose to visit the WWII and FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) Memorials. At the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, we were astonished to see all the different air crafts. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon of the unforgettable memorials.



Everyone enjoyed the ferry ride.

Ms. Dunn, who organized the trip, says, "All around, it was a great trip. Universally, the kids had a great time enjoying what they saw. [Their] behavior was wonderful," By Ella Svirida and Khaila Coissiere

Mr. Hollier Wins a Sweet Facial!

Teachers on team 8 Red gave their students extra motivation to pass the Eighth Grade Writing Test by offering the homeroom with the highest writing test scores a chance to throw a pie in the face of their homeroom teacher. Mr. Hollier's homeroom had with the best scores; every single student in his homeroom passed the test. The student chosen to pie Mr. Hollier was Emerald Little. On Friday April 23, she hit him in the face with a pie during the Relay for Life Walkathon. Mr. Hollier says, "I never thought a pie could hurt so much."

By Tyler Aldridge and Perlita Aldava





club news



G.E.M.S. - The G.E.M.S., Girls Engaged in Meaningful Service, assisted in the Newton County Special Olympics Track & Field events on May 4. G.E.M.S. members were allowed to either volunteer to be an athlete's buddy or help to run and organize individual events. One G.E.M.S. member, Bianca Hannon says, "I had a great time being a buddy and helping other students enjoy their Olympics. I like the club and am glad that I joined since it gives me a good feeling helping others."

Marine Technology



After months of preparation, the Marine Technology went to the Gray's Reef Southeast Regional MATE ROV Competition at the Chatham Aquatic Center in Savannah the Saturday after the GCRCT. The Aquatic Generals managed to place second out of three middle schools that were competing in the Scout Class. The MATE, Marine Advanced Technology Education, was the organization coordinating the international competition. The Veterans students who went to compete with their ROV, Swamp Monster, were seventh graders Tanner Barr and William Smith, and eight graders Jeremy Rachels and Emily Willis. The Marine Technology Club would like to thank Mr. Peek, Oxford College, Johnson Park, Ms. Nolan, MATE, and all of the parents for helping them by donating supplies and time to practice with them.



The Marine Technology Club members are proud of their Remote Operated Vehicle "Swamp Monster."

By Anfernee Cruz and Tyler Aldridge



Hat and Scarf Party

On March 31, a very special member of Veterans' staff was honored at a Hat and Scarf party. Mrs. Denna Alston, one of the school's counselors, was recently diagnosed with cancer. Some of the teachers decided to have a hat and scarf party so she would have things to wear when she lost her hair. During this party, they played games, enjoyed cupcakes and sandwiches and presented gifts to Mrs. Alston. One gift that was very special to Mrs. Alston was a quilt that Ms. Cole, Ms. Sanders and a few other teachers made especially for her. They modeled many different ways to wear the hats and scarves. Ms. Arbee, another counselor at Veterans says about Ms. Alston and the party, "She was very excited to see how many people supported her."



Students who would like to send cards to Ms. Alston can give them to Ms. Grimes in the front office, who will be glad to deliver them.

By Alex Jordan and Morgan Bradford

Six Flags Can Be Educational!

Six Flags hosted a Math and Science Educational Science Day for students on Friday, April 30. They closed the park to the general public, but opened it solely for students all around metro Atlanta, turning the park into a gigantic learning lab. Students used specific workbooks provided by Six Flags and designed by educators. Students learned the physics of how the rides are operated and the math that is involved as well. The marketing and advertising that promotes Six Flags was another topic that was explored. Eighth grade students from Veterans who were passing and had outstanding behavior were eligible to go. The cost of the trip was \$50 per person which included transportation, admission, lunch at the park and a return ticket back to the park. The students had plenty of chaperones looking out for them, and a special thanks goes to all who volunteered: Coach Davis, Mr. Adams, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Gates, Mrs. Jordan, and Mr. Taylor. All who went had fun!



By Alex Jordan and Morgan Bradford





The Generals 360 does not normally run editorials, but occasionally, the opportunity arises to present outstanding work from student writers. Below is an editorial submitted by a seventh grade journalist.

Lessons Learned at Saturday Work Detail By Elise McDonald

I was recently assigned four days of what I first thought would be merciless torture and a complete waste of time called Saturday Work Detail. I was sure it would not benefit me in the slightest bit, and desired simply to get it over with so that I could move on with my life. It shocked me to discover how utterly wrong I was. This experience impacted me greatly in ways that will stay with me for the rest of my life. By sharing my story, I hope to enlighten you so that you may consider the things I came to realize and learn from them.

Having no knowledge of the 9AM - 11AM procedure of Saturday Work Detail, I assumed the worst. However, all we ended up doing on the first day was shelving books. I'd volunteered to do it numerous times before at school, so it was a walk in the park. The work was easy, pleasant, and completed with time to spare.

Unfortunately, the next three Saturdays I wasn't as lucky. I had to sweep, straighten-up, take out the trash, and wipe down the dry-erase boards in classrooms. Whilst I was cleaning my Saturday mornings away, yearning to still be in bed, I had time to think. Along with the thinking came the realizing.

I noticed one of the things while cleaning my second classroom. At first, I had no idea who it belonged to, but I was determined to figure it out. I observed the contents of the room, and by carefully analyzing every detail, I was able to deduce far more than to whom the room belonged. Details such as the vibrant colors of his room, the photograph of the toddler on his desk, the subject of the textbooks beneath the students' desks, the memorabilia of praise from the students, and the snack wrappers in the garbage can spoke volumes to me about not only this man's superb qualities as a teacher, but his character as well.

I also came to fully realize how wasteful we, as Americans, truly are. In most of the classrooms I swept, debris littered the linoleum floor. Things such as uneaten food, perfectly good pens and pencils that had been helplessly contorted by the students, balled up sheets of blank paper that had otherwise been in pristine condition, brand new eraser caps, and many more miscellaneous objects lay scattered below my feet. It's quite sad really, that we are not taught as children to respect and conserve our resources simply because they are "plentiful". We take for granted our luxuries. Many countries all over the world endure endless suffering due to their lack of resources, while we are constantly wasting ours without giving it a thought.

Along with cleaning also came my newfound appreciation for our school's custodians. They are forever cleaning up the never-ending messes of the students and staff, and after all their effort, sadly, they oftentimes go unnoticed. We should be more considerate of them when we stick gum under the desks, make ridiculously large messes in the bathrooms, or spill coffee in the teachers' lounge without bothering to clean it up. Taking the extra minute or two to properly clean up and dispose of our own messes will be neither difficult nor very time consuming, and will help the janitors in helping keep the school healthy.

But of all the lessons I learned from this experience, I suppose one of the most important was the fact that getting into trouble once or twice does not make you a criminal, it makes you human. Everyone does, indeed, make mistakes, and the most important thing is learning from them.

On those four Saturdays, I saw everything through different eyes. For the first time, I recognized things that have been around me for years for what they truly are. Had I not attended Saturday Work Detail, I more than likely would not have discovered any of the invaluable truths mentioned in this article. I am sincerely grateful for this experience, as it has certainly been one of the most beneficial I have ever had. I do not regret it in the slightest, and I hope to have granted you the blessing of knowledge that I received on those four meaningful Saturdays.



CRCT Remediation

Every student at Veterans took the CRCT standardized test from April 19-23. This year, eighth grade students who did not pass Reading and Math have the opportunity to take remediation classes so they can be promoted. The classes are being held from May 12-21 because there is no funding for the summer school that is usually offered. Teachers from different grade levels are teaching the CRCT remediation in the areas of Mathematics and Reading. Students spend two hours in remediation, whether it's in the morning or in the afternoon. The CRCT Reading test will be on May 26 and the CRCT Mathematics test will be on May 27. All students in the remediation must be present on those days. The students who don't need the remediation will instead do a year-end project that will be due on May 21. By Bianca Hannon

Hoops for Veterans

This year, the connections department decided to raise money through a fundraiser called Hoops for Veterans. There were originally three events planned for this semester, but two were cancelled and there was only one held on Friday, March 19. To play basketball in the tournament students paid two dollars, but the students who wanted to watch the game, listen to music, or hang out with friends only paid one dollar. The tournaments were round-robin eliminations. The events were organized in five-on-five, knockout, and three-on-three set-ups. Altogether, during the fundraiser, \$1,000 was raised.



Eighth Graders Juwan Henderson, Jomandi Smith, James Russell, and Lareco Herring won three-on-three.

By Ashton Stewart and Brandon Johnson

Savannah Trip

Early on Friday, March 26, around 50 seventh grade students left Veterans for Savannah, Georgia. Mrs. Mansfield and Ms. Dunn, who planned this trip for the students, were also a part of the team faculty members who chaperoned. Even though the trip only lasted two days, it was packed with fun and educational activities. When they arrived in Savannah, the students went on a picnic at the Waving Girl Statue, followed by a trolley tour of the city. They enjoyed shopping on River Street and eating dinner at the Pirate House. They were then excited to go on a ghost tour which brought a creepy end to their first night. On Saturday, they visited The Tybee Island Marine Science Center where they dissected squid, went to a touch aquarium, and walked on the beach. Reluctantly, they left that afternoon to head back to Covington.



By Taylor Crews and Jenna Mitchell

The fun has come to an end... or has it?

Veterans has had a wonderful year, ending with a grand month. The month of May will be filled with various activities and excitement. Beginning on May 12, all athletes who have played a sport at Veterans will be honored at the Annual Athletics Awards Night, at 6:30pm, in the cafeteria. Male and female athletes of the year will be recognized along with various team awards. On May 18, Veterans' very own band, will give their final performance entitled, The Spring Band Concert. Parents, faculty, and students will be able to take pleasure in this musical treat taking place in the gym, from 7:30-9:00pm. The eighth grade dance will take place on of May 22 from 6-9pm, themed, the evening of enchantment. At the dance pictures, will be taken of the students in their semi-formal attire. Eighth graders will be given the opportunity to show off their dance skills while socializing with classmates for their last dance of the year. Dress codes and behavioral guidelines were sent home with the students. The administrators are also sponsoring an eighth grade picnic on Monday, May 24. At the picnic hotdogs, chips, and sodas will be served on the football field and students will have an chance to participate in the entertaining activities and visit with friends. The next day, Tuesday, May 25, sixth and seventh grade students will enjoy their fun-filled field day, hosted by the connection teachers. On May 28, 2010, administrators and teachers will acknowledge all the achievements of Veterans' accomplished students. All of these activities lead up to the end of the year. Students will have many mixed emotions as they reminisce all the memorable events that took place, say their farewells and goodbyes, and still anticipate the summer ahead with glee and joy. By Andreana Guillet and Milan Mitchell