

2010 YEAR-END ISSUE

# GENERALS 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

Volume: 5, Issue: 3

## Bottled Beauty

Mrs. Mortimer's advanced art class has been hard at work all semester creating beautiful pieces of art. However, one project in particular caught the eyes of many at Chimney Park on Sunday, December 5. On that night, a Christmas tree was decorated with the gorgeous, vividly colored floral ornaments created by the advanced art students. They were competing with elementary, middle, and high schools all across Newton County, the only requirements being that the theme of the school's ornaments must be either recycled or natural materials. Veterans chose to take the recycled route. Despite the numerous participants, Veterans came away victorious, winning one hundred dollars to put back into the art program.

The inspiration for the ornaments came from a man named Dale Chihuly, a famous glass blower who made elaborate sculptures entirely out of brightly colored glass. Because of limited resources, students were unable to use glass, so they used plastic water bottles instead. After cutting and painting the bottles, they configured and glued them to reassemble flowers, then used a heat gun to manipulate their shape. This was a fun, unique project that allowed the students to not only work with different mediums, but give back to the art program as well.

By Elise McDonald



## Veterans' Drama and Poetry Performances Stand Out in Newton County

The second nine weeks of the school year was jam packed with poetry and drama in the Quest language arts classes. Students in many classes were organized into groups to learn skits. Individual students recited their own poems. Everyone worked very hard so they would qualify to participate in the school wide competition. The competition was held on Friday, November 19 in Veterans' media center. Three judges, Mrs. Colman, Mr. Peek, Mr. Rachels, were well prepared and excited to watch each student's skit and listen to poems. The competition was separated into two parts. The first portion was the poetry recitation, which began at 9 a.m. At 11 a.m., the drama and skits portion began. Parents, judges, and other students enjoyed watching the performers express themselves through plays and poems. The winning skit, *Baking a Cake*, was preformed by Topanga Bailey, Kya Walker, Tanique McDonald, Dora Flynn, Precious Buddington, Madison Beazley William Bradford, and David Croone. The winner of the poetry contest for sixth grade was Hannah Hinton with *Daddy's Poem*. For seventh grade, Emma Golden who recited *Oh, The Places You Will Go*, placed



Sixth grade student Hannah Hinton recites her poem .



Eighth grade students perform their skit, *Baking A Cake*.

first. The eighth grade winner was David Croone with *Little Red Riding Hood and The Wolf*. These winners went to the Eastside Competition on December 8. Every participant from Veterans came away with a first place medal! Way to go Generals! By Kayla McCord and Baylee Friedman

Veterans Memorial Middle School, 13357 Brown Bridge Rd., Covington, GA 30016 770-385-6983

## Student of the Month

Every month, teachers must nominate a student who displays excellence. Sometimes, the hardest part of this task is selecting just one exemplary student. Once students are selected, they, along with their parents, are invited to a reception in their honor. At the reception, students receive certificates of excellence, and complimentary refreshments are served to all attendees. This is a time for recognizing those who excel in their studies and always put forth a positive attitude. They are a great manifestation of Veterans Memorial Middle School, and the staff looks forward to recognizing each new group month after month.



By Emma Golden and Simeon Rogers

# Deck the Halls!

The halls of Veterans are filled with Holiday Cheer. Snowflakes created by students in Art hang outside the classroom. Right, LeDavid West helps decorate the tree in the front office.



The advanced art class decorated large cardboard boxes for the Rotary Club Empty Stocking Fund. Above are three of the participants. (Abby Vanderwolf, Elise McDonald, Tyren Brooks)

## Veterans Students Get Connected

Along with many other changes at Veterans, student emails are now a resource students can utilize! Veterans is one of the first Newton County Schools to test the emails. Veterans, along with a couple other schools, has been successful in realizing the benefits of student emails, so a decision was made to extend the offer to other schools in Newton County. There are certain requirements and restrictions when using the accounts, such as, parents had to sign a permission form, and students may only email other participants in the Newton County School System Network. The students' email login must also be the same login they use to enter Veterans computers. Misconduct when using the account results in taking away the email. To login, students go to [www.outlook.com](http://www.outlook.com) and enter their username and password. This exciting form of communication was introduced to Veterans so that students can prepare for the world that they will work in. It is designed basically for teacher to student, and student to student instructional contact for homework help, or student projects. Veterans' social studies teachers are in charge of introducing and instructing regarding the use of the email accounts. Many say the student emails will change Veterans for the better, in helping students communicate safely, and more effectively.



By Kya Walker and Carley Lively



## Grappling Generals

With the season underway, the 2010-2011 Wrestling Generals are hoping for another championship year. Coach Robinson and Coach Helm are pushing the Wrestling Generals to their maximum with upper-body strength drills at practice. These drills might look hard to the average Joe, but for them it is the way to win. The drills only help with half of what is needed to succeed in wrestling. The other half is having a good mindset. A wrestler has to believe that he will win, and that he can almost taste the victory.

Members on the team all had their minds set on the first match December 1 at Edwards Middle School against the Edward Patriots, picking up a victory. Then the Generals fought hard with another win at the tournament at Ola High School on December 4. Next, there was a dual meet at Locust Grove on Saturday December 11, 2010. There were two more meets scheduled, December 14 at Alcovy and December 15 at Conyers. With more matches to come, the Wrestling Generals are hoping to bring another championship to Veterans, right where it belongs.

By Kevin Singh and Michael Pitts



AJ Palomino was a champion at the Ola Pin Down Cancer Tournament.

## Girls Basketball

It's that time of the year again! The Lady Generals basketball team started working hard at practices on November 1 led by Coach Ernest Fulton.



Madison Beazley takes a free throw shot.

Fulton says he selected players based on their ability and potential. He also says that this team has the ability to win it all. Last year, the Lady Generals lost to Memorial Middle School in the championship and Coach Fulton expects to play them again this year in the finals. "We have to play as a team" says Coach. The team consists of sixteen talented girls (Dora Flynn, Madison Beazley, Mayia Green, Skyler May, Ny'Tauja McKinnon, Cheron McKee, Lydia Irving, Kennisa Ragland, Marquita Gaither, Catrina Shotwell, Alexis Cook, Tyra Hollingsworth, Shay Tarver, Ayanna Wimbush, Idalis Forte, and Alexis Jacobs). The girls played their first game on November 17 against Clements Middle School and the Lady Generals dominated the Wolverines by a score of 39-14. The Lady Generals have been 5-0 since then. Coach Fulton says, "First thing we're going to do is win the championship. That's our main thing." By Kennisa Ragland and Rebecca Merrell

## Hitting the Hoops

With the new season here, the Basketball Generals are up and ready for action. Tryouts ended Monday, November 1, and sixteen players made the team. Through all the hard work and dedication in every practice, the players say they are ready for any oncoming game. Coach Hollier always says encouraging things like, "Always play hard because hard work pays off," and, "Believe to achieve." The players get ready for the games in different ways. TJ McCartha says, "Seeing the crowd cheering us on gets me pumped up before a game." Simoni Fobi says, "Music gets me ready to play a game." With an overall record of 0-4, the Generals are still filled with confidence for the games ahead. So come out and support the Generals!



By Dora Flynn and Kanai DeBerry

## Cheering for Baskets

With the 2010-2011 Basketball season underway, not only are the basketball players working hard after school, but the cheerleaders are as well. Coach Barbara Ward, who's been a cheerleading coach at Veterans for three years, took on the responsibility of coaching the seventeen cheerleaders. In addition to pepping up the crowd at games, the girls are also involved in community service. The squad has generously participated in community service for Rockdale Cares on December 11 and served food and danced with clients who are mentally challenged. With the responsibility of staying after school for practice nearly every day, the cheerleaders were able to learn and perfect all routines and cheers, and were well prepared for their first game at Clements. Coach Ward said, "I'm proud of the girl's hard work, and eager for the rest of the season."



By Abby Vanderwolf and Morella Briceno

## Parents and Teachers Get Involved with the PTO

The Parent Teacher Organization is all about supporting Veterans' principals, teachers, and staff in numerous ways, which in turn, helps the students at Veterans. The PTO meets in the cafeteria on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., except in January and April. During these two months, meetings will be rescheduled, due to school holidays. A membership form can be downloaded on the Veterans' website, and can be turned in at the next meeting. Members joining the PTO will get a discount at local restaurants sponsoring the program. They have various ways to raise money, like "Hat Day" and membership drives. The funds raised will go to student, teacher, and staff recognition programs, and will possibly help purchase agendas and other school activities next year.

A significant fundraiser being held this year is a raffle. PTO members will be selling raffle tickets during lunch periods, and at home basketball games through November, and the first half of December. Students can purchase one ticket for 50 cents, or three tickets for one dollar. The winners will receive \$25.00 in "PTO dollars" to spend at the concession stand throughout the year. "The more money we raise, the more winners we will have," says Michelle Beazley, PTO president.

By Taylor Lewis and Hailey Garner

## Special Olympics

The Special Education students at Veterans, and the rest of Newton County, Rockdale County, and DeKalb County, participated in a competition known as the Special Olympics held during the first and second nine weeks. These events are designed to give the special education students a chance to show that they can perform as well as their peers. With this experience, the kids are able to gain confidence. The Special Olympics consists of bowling, softball, skating, volleyball, track and field, basketball, and the possibility of field hockey, soccer, and tennis exists. The bowling portion of the competition



was held at the AMC bowling alley in Conyers. Softball was held at Turner Lake complex in Covington. Skating will be held at Romp N' Roll in Conyers. The rest of the events' locations are still undecided.



Veterans is very proud of the Special Education students for doing their best, and placing at these events with very high scores. In the Newton County bowling tournament, the students received numerous medals, including one first place medal. They also won medals while competing with other counties. In softball, they placed third in Newton County. Ms. Garvin, a teacher at Veterans was proud because these very special kids kept their head high while competing, and always held fast to the quote, "Let me win. And if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

By Jordyn White and Baylee Friedman

## Competition Cheer Generals End Their Season

Although the Cheer Generals did not end their season with a New Rock Championship trophy, they left knowing what a wonderful season they had. Practicing each and every day, and working as hard as possible, they still managed to leave with good attitudes and knowing they placed second in two of their competitions. In their final competition, they faced a very difficult challenge, because one of the Cheer Generals broke her ankle the day before the competition! An eighth grade cheerleader, Abby Vanderwolf, saved the day as she managed to learn an entire new routine, allowing the performance to go on, even though it was difficult. No matter what challenges they faced, they kept their heads up high and did their ultimate best. Head Coach, Mrs. Mansfield, was proud of her cheerleaders and the season they had. The hard work helped them succeed to the goal of being excellent cheerleaders, with great school spirit. Some hope to become high school cheerleaders, maybe even ultimately earning scholarships. "This is one of the best teams I've had, and it surprised me in the end at how dedicated they were and how they came such a long way." She's sad about her eighth graders leaving. She says, "We've been together for so long. I've also been more than a coach to them; we are like friends. They are very dedicated and came such a long way." Veterans hopes the cheerleaders have a successful season next year, just as the one they did this year.



By Morella Briceno and Ari Kenney

## A Visit with Condoleezza Rice



Members of the 2010-2011 Book Club took advantage of a once in a life time opportunity to travel to the Literary Center in Atlanta, to see the phenomenal Condoleezza Rice. During the program, she spoke about her new book, "Extraordinary, Ordinary People", and reminisced on the difficult challenges she has faced. The students who attended learned about the civil rights movement, as told by Ms. Rice. Eighth grade club member Ngaio Warrington says, "Condoleezza Rice has worked really hard to get where she is today." Ms. Rice signed books after the meeting. After the event the group headed to the Atlanta History Center, as a result of a quick change of plans. Logan House, a book club member, says his favorite part of the trip was when the president of Spelman College interviewed Ms. Rice. The faculty members who chaperoned the trip were Mrs. Roach, Mrs. Alston, and Mrs. Coleman. This amazing trip was very beneficial for Veterans students, because they got to learn from the former Secretary of State, Mrs. Condoleezza Rice.

By Giannia Vasquez and Kya Walker

## Limo Lunch Ride

The fall fundraiser at Veterans was a big success, but the fundraiser didn't end when all of the money was turned in. It ended with the prizes! The most rewarding prize was a limo lunch ride to Johnny's Pizza for a great lunch. Students who met the requirements of twenty items alone or thirty with a friend were called to the front office at 11:00 on Tuesday, November 23 to be met by a stretch limo and a chauffeur. Eight people attended in all. Two students from sixth grade came, four from seventh grade, and two from eighth grade. It was a special opportunity for the students to get out of class and go for a limo ride. These students were treated spectacularly for supporting Veterans' big fundraiser.



By Emma Golden and Simeon Rogers

## CLUB NEWS

**Girl Talk:** Girl talk is a club for the girls at Veterans to open up with each other and talk about common issues. Every Thursday at 7:45, Veterans' counselors, Mrs. Alston, and Mrs. Turner meet with girls in the cafeteria. The sixth and seventh grades' meeting was on November 4, and the eighth grade's was on November 11. The schedule continues to rotate each Thursday.

**Marine Technology Club:** Ms. Theresa Pinilla and Mrs. Kathryn Henderson have joined up to create a club for students who love technology. The team in the Marine Technology Club will build an ROV, Remotely Operated Vehicle, and then travel to Savannah in the last Saturday of April to compete against other middle schools, high schools, and one or two colleges. Every year, a variety of schools come. Last year there were fifteen schools, and the year before that two dozen. After coming in second place last year, the team is upping the game to make the ROV more quickly so they have more time to test the ROV and make improvements. "To make the best ROV, it needs to have excellent stability and maneuver ability," says Ms. Pinilla.

**Campus Life:** Campus life is a Christian based club which meets from 7:50 to 8:20 every Friday in the gym. Students can go and take the time to learn about God and all the blessings in their lives, as well as to assist them with any obstacles they might be facing. Justin Long, a pastor at Victorious Life Church, comes every week to Veterans to talk to students just because he wants to help. The purpose of this club is to send students to the next level spiritually, and it's turning out to be a big success.

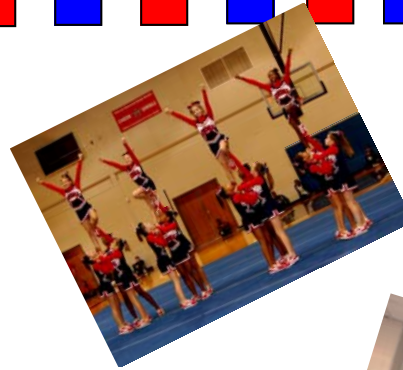
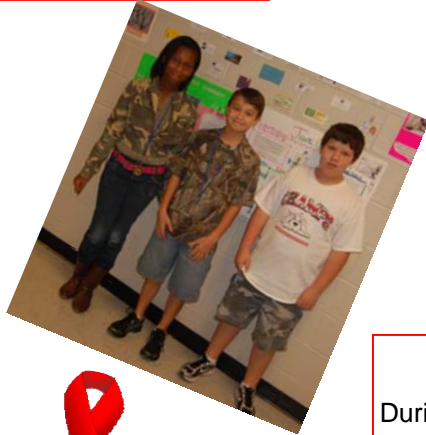
**FCCLA:** Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a nation-wide program that teaches students about learning to be a better leader at home, in their community, even in their own state.

The Veterans Chapter is run by Mrs. Worman, the FCS teacher. The club meets every first and third Thursdays in each month. Members participate in a wide variety of activities and fundraisers.

**GEMS:** A food drive was sponsored by the G.E.M.S club and students could turn in items from November 1 to November 17. Veterans' students donated over 2,500 items to benefit needy families! Items were given to Newton County's local food pantry.

*Club news was compiled by Kayla McCord, Kya Walker, Ari Kenney, Kennisa Ragland, Rebecca Merrell, and Kevin Singh.*





### Red Ribbon Week

During the week of October 25-29, Veterans took a stand against drugs with Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week wasn't just about the students dressing out, but about them realizing the importance of being drug free. Drugs can greatly impact a person's life, the way they act, the way they look, and the way they feel towards other individuals. Each day the school had a huge number of participants, but the largest participation from the students was on Wednesday, tacky day. Veteran's ended Red Ribbon Week with a student-teacher basketball game and a pep rally to get the kids pumped up. The athletes were recognized, the cheerleaders performed, and the whole gym was showing their school spirit. The game allowed students to get out of connections and rival the teachers with a 5 on 5 game. Students not only had fun all week, but learned the importance of being drug free.

By Baylee Friedman and Jordyn White



Monday- Crazy sock day  
 Tuesday- Hat day  
 Wednesday- Tacky day  
 Thursday- Camouflage day  
 Friday- wear red day

