

all around information

generals 360

February 2010

Important Dates

January 28-

February 8

Book Fair

February 3

BB Tournament

@ Liberty

February 4-5

Early Dismissal

February 6

BB Tournament

@ Liberty

Wrestling @

Davis

Stars Academy

February 12

Hoops for

Veterans

February 15-19

Winter break

February 22

Track tryouts

begin

February 26

Student of the

Month @ 2:30

February 27

Stars Academy

Veterans Memorial Middle School

13357 Brown Bridge Rd.

Covington, GA 30016

770-385-6893



HOPE at Veterans

Girls at Veterans are finding encouragement and friends through HOPE. Project HOPE, (Helping Others Persevere through Encouragement) is an organization sponsored by Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Ellis, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. West. "Project HOPE mentors young ladies to help them develop friendships as well as skills, which help them to cope with the challenges of young adulthood. It is a spiritual-based organization which encourages moral values and character, as well as positive decision making," says Ms. West. The girls in Project HOPE are Emerald Little, Jada Jackson, Tila Gibson, Coria Miller, Egnosia Moton, Nagaio Warrington, Tamia Robinson, Sarah King, Kayla Travis, Caaliyah Keaton, Bashunica Rooks, Jahzerah Burton, Loren Simon, and Alexandria Stephens. "We talk about the things that matter to us, and what's going on in our lives," says Loren Simon, a sixth grade student. During the month of December, Project HOPE went on a Christmas outing to Dave and Busters at Discovery Mills Mall. Jada Jackson, an eighth grade student says "HOPE has helped me be more patient and believe in myself."



By Ella Svirida and Hannah Jackson

Math In Action

On average, twelve thousand five hundred children and adolescents in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer each year. On January 11, 2010, Veterans kicked off a two week fundraiser to raise money for children at St. Jude's Research Hospital. These children suffer from all forms of cancer. Mrs. Chandra Black, an eighth grade math teacher, sponsored this program. Students at Veterans were given a permission slip to be signed by their parents to participate in the Math-a-thon. After getting permission, students received a math-a-thon booklet, from which math problems were assigned. Along with the great cause of helping others in need, students were also benefiting academically. After completing the booklet, students were to get their sponsors to check their problems. The correct answers are tallied and sponsors donate money to St. Jude's Hospital for every correct answer. Some teachers, such as Mrs. Black, are giving extra credit to those who raise money. Mrs. Black also wants the students and sponsors to remember that participating in the fundraiser not only helps others but affects people in a way that makes them take pride and joy in donating to those in need. Although a small number of students participated in this fundraiser, the students who participated worked hard and raised \$300 for this charity. Marissa Todus, an eighth grade student who took part in the Math-a-thon says, "Getting involved in a fundraiser like this was a joyous experience."

By Khailla Coissiere and Andreana Guillet



generals sports

The Girls Are Back!

"The girls have worked hard, played well, and both Coach Fulton and I are very proud of the girls," says Mr. Eric Hollier, the girls' assistant basketball coach. To make the cut, these athletes had to be able to dribble the ball, be a good listener, and know the rules of the game. When the try-outs were over, the coaches decided to pick eighteen girls that they thought would best suit the team. Although the team has had their ups and downs, Mr. Fulton and Mr. Hollier have enjoyed coaching these girls and couldn't ask for a better of a team. The girls have been on fire the whole season, ending with a winning record. Both coaches believe that in every game, the girls gave one hundred percent. The team's last game was win against Memorial on January 29, with a score of 33-27. The Lady Generals had a great season!

By Taylor Crews and Alex Jordan



It's That Time!

With the end of the season so close, Veterans' Wrestling Generals are doing wonderfully! Sadly, at the beginning of January, Veterans lost six wrestlers due to grades, but Coach Robinson believes that the thirty-two remaining wrestlers will give it 100%! "We were looking very tough, and we were sure that we'd win NewRock; now it may be a bit more challenging to pull off that feat," Coach Robinson explains. The match on January 29 against Liberty was a blow-out victory with a score of 108-11. This win against Liberty was the last time the Wrestling Generals 'hit the mat' at home, but Veterans coaches don't want people to stop coming out to support their wonderful wrestlers. The coaches hope they will progress to the last match at the NewRock Tournament, held February 6, because that is the biggest match of the season. Reporter Alexis Jones, who has cheered for the wrestlers all season, says, "They've worked super hard to get where they've gotten, and support from the stands will only make them work harder."



By Alexis Jones and Brandon Johnson



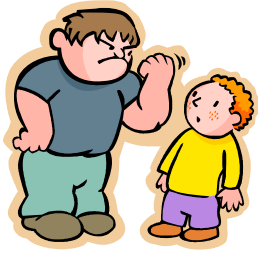
Generals Hit the Hoops

January was a busy month for the boys' basketball team, starting off triumphantly with a victory against Liberty Middle School on January 6. The Generals fought long and hard ending the game with a score of 43-25. Unfortunately, they lost the next three games against Memorial Middle School, Davis Middle School, and Edwards Middle School. This gave them the determination to defeat the Cousins Cardinals, beating them 51-29. After a win against the Conyers Bulldogs, the Generals went up against their biggest rivals this year, Indian Creek, on January 27. They fought a hard battle, but the Panthers were victorious in the end. They ended the month prevailing over Memorial in an overtime 33-29 victory. Coach Adams proudly says "Good teams become great ones when the members trust each other enough to surrender the 'me' for the 'we'." The Generals are a great team.

By Alea Nesbit and Ajah'lai Edghill



Agenda Spotlight: Bullying Not Allowed at Veterans



"Bullying is against county policy. No student should have to come to school to be picked on by another student," says Mr. Taylor, one of Veterans' assistant principals. On page 40 of the student agenda, the definition of bullying is any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or except immediate bodily harm. One student, who wishes to remain anonymous says, "I will always remember the people who bullied me as I went through many years of school. That's something that you will never forget. It's such a miserable experience. I hate to know that others will have to endure the feeling,".

endure the feeling,".

Bullying can happen in many different ways. "Veterans doesn't really have physical bullying as much as cyber and emotional bullying," states Jeremy Rachels, an eighth grade student who attends Veterans. Cyber bullying is the use of computers or cell phones to torment, threaten, harass, humiliate, or embarrass another person. Sometimes bullying can get out of control. It could start off with something as simple as a joke and lead to an unwanted experience, that may include physical harm. "When I was in sixth grade, this group of girls wouldn't leave me alone and kept messing with me. It didn't effect my school work, but it made me feel depressed and unwanted. One day I even went home crying," an eighth grade student says. The agenda states the that most severe consequence for bullying could include being placed in an Alternative School. Students are encouraged to report any act of bullying immediately so that things do not get out of control. If a student is being bullied, they should report it to a teacher, parent or guardian, or an administrator so that they can receive help.

By Alexis Jones and Khaila Coissiere

Teacher spotlight: Mrs. Henderson

From egg osmosis to dissecting pigs, Kathryn Langmyer Henderson doesn't believe in bookwork. Her students are always doing hands-on projects to enhance their learning. A great deal of her own knowledge has come from life experiences. She has visited places all over the world, including Central and South America, Canada, and various parts of Europe. During the February Break, she will be spending time in Switzerland. She lives with her husband, Dr. Henderson, who teaches at Oxford College, and her daughter, Sarah, who is a sophomore there. She has been teaching for twenty five years, but only at Veterans for three. At one time, she was an assistant professor at UGA while she was still a graduate student. It was there she began doing geology labs. Though she prefers teaching science, at one point she instructed eighth grade literature as well as seventh and eighth grade social studies. Mrs. Henderson studied at many schools such as Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, University of Georgia (where she received her Masters in geology) and the University of Buffalo for her teacher certification.

It was her wide variety of interests that led her to become a teacher. Her natural curiosity and love of learning new things was ideal because being a teacher meant discovering new things everyday. While on a field trip in ninth grade with one of her favorite teachers, Mr. Cadwell, she discovered a very cool Trilobite fossil which intrigued her. Her mom and grandmother were also in the teaching profession, so she had a basic understanding of what the job entailed..

"Continue to be curious throughout life. Don't be complacent and learn all you can!" says Mrs. Henderson, who would love for *all* of her students to learn and live by that philosophy. In her opinion, the best part about teaching science is watching the kids make connections between what she teaches and their everyday lives. Her goal for all of her students is to have a good, working knowledge of science. She also hopes that some of them will find jobs in the field of science. As much as she loves teaching, completing paperwork is the least favorite part of her job. At the end of each year, watching her 'young scientists leave is painful, especially when she watches them grow over their middle school years. Any student would be very fortunate to have her class.



By Gaby Collantes and Megan Ralston





Media Corner: The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl

This year, the Helen Ruffin Bowl team has nine participants, all whom are seventh grade students. The team meets after school every Tuesday from 3:30 – 4:30. In addition to team meetings, they each do an individual study every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00-8:30. The Reading Bowl centers around eighteen books, all of which are available in the media center. Their first meet, the big county competition, was on January 30.

As a reminder, Veterans' sponsor, Ms. Coleman, would like for students and parents to know that the AR buddy program started on January 19. During this program, fourteen peer helpers are paired with sixth grade students to spend time together reading on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:00-8:30.

Because reading daily is vital to the success of students, every day at 8:05, every student in the school is participating in twenty-five minutes of school-wide reading. This gives students time to read their AR books. Parents will need to check with their children's language arts teachers for their child's reading level. Ms. Coleman says, "Students should read for thirty minutes every day in order to start a habit of established lifelong readers."
By Alexis Hale and Brandon Johnson

Veterans is Reaching for the S.T.A.R.S.

S.T.A.R.S., Students and Teachers Achieving Real Success, is a free after-school program designed to help the students involved within the program to improve academically, with extra tutorials and extension components in Math and English. They began meeting two days a week, Monday and Thursday, in January from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. STARS Saturday Academies will be held from 9:00-11:00 on five Saturdays, the first two on February 6 and 27. The last day of S.T.A.R.S. will be Monday, March 29, 2010. Openings for the program are on first-come first-serve basis, and the school system provides transportation. Attendance, behavior and punctuality are important because there are three ways students can be removed from S.T.A.R.S.: two unexcused absences, any discipline infraction, or failure to be picked up at 5:00, for car riders. Students are reaching for the stars with the Veterans after school program.

By Tyler Aldridge and Anfernee Cruz

Pennies for Patients

GEMS (Girls Engaged in Meaningful Service) sponsors Pennies for Patients every year at Veterans. This fundraiser benefits the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society, which helps patients who live in Georgia. Every penny collected benefits these sick children. From January 11-22, students participated in Penny Wars, where students put money in a jug with an administrator's name to see who would collect the most money. The administrator who ended up with the most money in his jar was Mr. Taylor. As a "reward" for earning the most money, he received a pie in his face in a pep rally on January 29.

Also during the month, students filled penny banks with loose change in a competition between homerooms. Mr. Bigby's homeroom won the contest, bringing in \$372.00, receiving a pizza party as a reward. January 8 was Jersey Day, when students and faculty wore jerseys of their favorite teams. On January 15, the staff paid five dollars to wear jeans and \$240 was raised. January 22 was Hat Day, and students brought in a dollar to wear a hat. GEMS' goal was to raise \$500 altogether, but they exceeded that goal, raising an amazing total of \$2,431.20. Way to give, Veterans!

By Alexis Hale and Briseida Cabral



Sharing the Love!

- Several organizations are planning Valentine's fundraisers:
 - Crush drinks— Send an orange "crush" soda to a classmate or friend. \$1.50 each. See a GEMS member for purchase!
 - Candy-cane hearts and/or Val-O-grams are going to be sold for \$.50 each. See a cheerleader for your purchase!

Did you know?

Veterans has 124 staff members working hard to make sure that Veterans runs smoothly everyday.



Black History Month

Veterans Memorial Middle School is celebrating Black History in the month of February. Students will see how they can make a difference by focusing on African-Americans that made history at early ages. Many academic classes are having projects that connect with Black History month. They are creating collages and posters, writing poems, or creating timelines about famous African American accomplishments. Many of these projects will be displayed in the halls of Veterans starting the first week of February. Faculty members who are serving on the Black History Committee are Grenetta Turner, Angel West, Crishanta Williams, William Rembert, Lisa Walton, Denise Walker, Terri Hines, and Alfred Miller.

Each day during the month of February, there will be a Black History Trivia question read during the announcements that students may answer; students will be turning their answers into a designated box in the front office. The first person whose name is pulled and has the correct answer will have his or her name entered into a drawing. At the end of the month, a winner will be drawn for a prize. There will also be an annual faculty pot luck on Friday, February 12 and the final event of the month will be a school wide assembly on Friday, February 26. It will be exciting to see what Veterans' students are going to create for this month.

By Morgan Bradford

Office Staff

The first faces visitors see as they enter Veterans are those of the school secretaries, Ms. Kristie Gates and Ms. Eve Reynolds. On a day-to-day basis, these two friendly ladies help students, parents, and staff with a wide variety of tasks ranging from answering phones to keeping records. It's amazing how they are aware of every student's location at any time. They know everything there is to know about students, staff, and what goes on in the school.

For Mrs. Eve Reynolds, each day is a day to look forward to. Although Mrs. Reynolds takes pleasure in working as Veterans' secretary, keeping all the files updated is her most difficult task. In Mrs. Reynolds' opinion, the best thing about her job is working with good people. "I love working here," she says.

In the past years, Veterans has had numerous changes. Having Mr. Peek become Veterans' new principal, is the most exciting thing that has happened to Mrs. Kristie Gates on the job. In addition to being a secretary, a dream job of hers is to travel internationally with all expenses paid. The best thing about her job is getting to see all the students grow as they prepare themselves for high school. "It is never boring," says Kristie Gates.

By Assata Sanifu and Bianca Hannon



Mose to the Rescue

Many Veterans students recognize the familiar face of Mose, and see him working on computers, but most are not aware of who he is. Mose Xiong, the technology specialist at Veterans, has a vital task at Veterans. Mrs. Coleman, the Veterans librarian, says that "Mose Xiong plays an integral role, ensuring our day-to-day technology operations run smoothly."



Mose, hard at work in the Cyber Café.

Born in Laos, he moved to the United States in 1976, and has lived in Kentucky, Colorado, and Wisconsin. He has five brothers and twenty aunts and uncles, because his maternal grandfather married twice. He attended the University of Georgia earning a degree in Physics; however that is not where he learned about computers. While working for a company that installed computers for businesses, like banks and stores, he began to learn about computers. Mose and his roommate decided to take the Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) test in order to obtain the hardware training they needed. After that, he worked at Delta for five years, where he gained software training. He has been a Technology Specialist for Newton County School Systems for five years. He works at Veterans on Mondays and Tuesdays, but Wednesdays and Thursdays he is working at Indian Creek. It makes his job easier that everything is pretty standard from one class to another and that usually when something goes wrong he has seen it before. Ms. Hartman and Mrs. Esguerra bring in new gadgets and show him, or talk about something new. With a full computer lab and a wide variety of technology in her classroom, Mrs. Esguerra says, "Mose is a lifesaver. It would be really hard for me to do my job well without his expertise and assistance."

By Jacob Carter and Ashton Stewart