

FEBRUARY 2011

GENERALS 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

VOLUME: 5, ISSUE: 1

What's in a Wing?

Labs are very popular in Mrs. Henderson's seventh grade science class. Recently, her seventh grade students did a chicken wing dissection. It was part of the student's responsibility to get some of the supplies. The students needed to bring in supplies such as vinyl gloves, old newspaper, Styrofoam meat trays, Clorox wipes, and Lysol spray. Some supplies were already provided for the students such as dissecting scissors and the chicken wing. The point of the lab was to be able to point out parts of the wing and tell what they are and what they do. The lab took two days to complete. Although it was a bit messy and maybe a little gross, in the end, students learned all the parts of the wing of a chicken and a little about human bones and muscles too.

By Emma Golden and Jordyn White



Collecting the Change to Make One!

During the month of January, students all over the school could be seen carrying around little cardboard boxes and asking people for pennies. They were collecting Pennies for Patients, which is a fundraiser to help kids who are suffering from cancer and leukemia. GEMS, who is sponsoring the fundraiser, has many activities planned to raise money. GEMS sponsored a Hat Day on Friday, January 21, and students who wanted to wear a hat had to pay one dollar. They also had an Orange Out Cancer Day which was also on Friday, January 21. Everyone wore orange because orange is the cancer awareness color for leukemia. There were also collection jugs which were located in front of the media center in the mornings and in the cafeteria during lunch. These jugs had faculty members' names on them where students placed pennies to elect a teach who would receive a pie in the face. Those participating in this event were Ms. Cole, Mrs. Mansfield, Coach Roberts, Ms. Roach, and Mr. Peek. On February 4, it was announced that Ms Cole, a sixth grade teacher, earned the most money and she got a pie in the face delivered by one of her own students, Kyle Donnelly! Mr. Bigby's sixth grade class collected the most money in their collection boxes with a total of \$268.34 and won a Chic-fil-a breakfast. In the end, Veterans raised \$1870.89! Although people don't realize it, a little change can make a BIG difference in the lives of others.

By Morella Briceno

Zero to Hero

Do the crime, do the time. Zero to Hero is a new program at Veterans which started on January 5. It was created by the counseling department to compel students to make up their missing assignments. During enrichment, Ms. Logan, Ms. Ward, and Ms. Cole meet with students in the cafeteria to make sure that the students make up their zeros. Anyone who has a math or language arts enrichment will attend on Mondays, and will attend a make-up day on team once a week if necessary. Hopefully, zeros will be disappearing by the end of the quarter.

By Giannia Vasquez and Hailey Garner

VETERANS MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL, 13357 BROWN BRIDGE RD., COVINGTON, GA, 30016, 770-395-6983

Girls Basketball - The Final Stretch

After all the sweat and hard work from practices, this season the girls' basketball team has only lost one game and they are better than ever. With a grueling schedule of two games a week, and practice every day, the girls put forth tons of effort and time into practice and their record of 12-1 reflects this. Coach Fulton sees wonderful cooperation in the team members and is excited they have gotten so far this season. He says, "This season turned out better than last season by far." He feels that the girls are motivated and ready to go, and their skills have gotten stronger and they are working together to win for the school. They still have an upcoming game against the Liberty Knights. The Lady Generals are eager to meet up with their competition. Good luck Lady Generals!



By Kaitlyn Doering and Kya Walker

With Seconds Left On The Clock.....

With a rough start to the season, the team is looking to get back on track. They are still hoping to dribble another basketball championship for Veterans. Working hard and being tough will get them to where they need to be. The boys' basketball team record so far is one win and eleven losses. Head Coach Eric Hollier gave insight on the team and the season. "I am very proud of the boys' basketball team because they never give up and they play hard till the end of the game. Also, the team had been improving each week and many players are becoming good basketball players. I am confident that we will be winning a lot of games very soon." He also gave input on what he feels a team needs to be triumphant. "In order for a great basketball team to be successful, the players must have discipline, determination, and be dedicated to working hard, learning, and improving each day." On January 7, 2011, the team lost a close game to Clements 34 – 36. On January 19, 2011, the team beat the Cousins Cardinals 57 – 51. By Michael Pitts and Kevin Singh



Hittin' the Mats

Veterans' Wrestling Generals are working harder than ever. The annual New Rock Duels were held on Saturday, January 29, at Edwards Middle School. The coaches were excited about the match and expected great things from their wrestlers. Coach Robinson said, "I'm very excited and I have a lot of confidence in my wrestlers and my assistant coach." As a result from all their hard work and determination the wrestlers placed 3rd in the New Rock Duels. One outstanding achievement is the terrific work from 8th grader A.J Palomino. He is currently 30-0, in the heavy weight class. The New Rock Tournament was held Saturday, February 5, at Indian Creek Middle School.

By Kennisa Ragland



Veterans ♥ Fundraisers

During February, all types of organizations at Veterans are raising money for many different causes. CRUSH drinks are a way for students to show their valentines that they care. GEMS, Girls Engaged In Meaningful Services, will be selling these drinks, along with a personalized message, for \$1.50 in the morning before homeroom. These drinks will be delivered on February 14, Valentine's Day. The money is being used to help pay for a club trip.

Wrestling Generals are working hard to get a new wrestling mat by selling subscriptions to ESPN, the Magazine. Ninety percent of the profits will go to the team and ten percent will go to ESPN. The first order will be turned in by February 7, and then the fundraiser will proceed until spring break.

On February 10, buddy pictures will be taken. These pictures are a way for students to remember middle school friends. The money raised helps pay for educational supplies at the school. These pictures vary depending on the package; the most expensive would be \$20.00 and the cheapest package is \$10.00. Students can have as many friends as they would like. So gather all your friends for a memory of a lifetime.

By Jordyn White and Giannia Vasquez

Wrapping it Up!

This year, the Christmas spirit didn't go to waste, and neither did the wrapping paper. Veterans decided to recycle all the wrapping paper, and earn a little money for the school! Mr. Bigby started the program, and allowed Mrs. Garvin's class to take part in it. Students and faculty brought in their Christmas wrapping paper, which had to be turned in by January 21. For each ton of paper donated, the school receives a check for forty-three dollars. Mrs. Garvin's class has been fundraising all year, and has earned more than enough money for their field trips. Because of this, they decided that the four hundred dollars raised would go towards buying a new, one thousand dollar trophy case for the school.



By Emma Golden and Baylee Friedman

History Mystery

Eighth grade students at Veterans have the opportunity to participate in History To Go, which is a series of historical field trips that coincide with the Social Studies standards. This is an opportunity for students to learn about all of the facts students don't learn in regular Social Studies classes. All of the events take place in the library, and the entry fee for all five dates was only ten dollars! On Friday, January 21, the students went back in time to the Civil War, thanks to the wonderful speaker, Mrs. Pat Visser. She showed the students period dress, artifacts from the time period, and bunches more enrichment information. The next event date is on February 14, and will be featuring the Holocaust, and the last is a three-day session on the 20th Century on April 29 -May 3. Veterans students give a big thanks to Mr. Helm for orchestrating this exciting event.



By Kya Walker and Kanai DeBerry

Buzz about the Bee

"Abominable" isn't an easy word to spell, but the Veterans Spelling Bee participants gave it their best. Language Arts teachers at Veterans chose students to participate in the school spelling bee. Mrs. Rachel's, a quest English/Language Arts teacher, held the spelling bee on Thursday, January 20, in the Media Center. After having a class spelling bee, the winner moved on to the grade level spelling bee, then to the school competition. Out of the whole school, there were fifteen finalists, three sixth grade students, five seventh grade students, and four eighth grade students. The bee lasted about an hour, and in the end Kennisa Ragland took second, while seventh grade student, Lexington Brown-Dobbs won first.



By Rebecca Merrell and Baylee Friedman

Chick-fil-a Biscuits

Coach Sammons and the girls' softball team are still fundraising to make money for a new field. There are only a few Chicken Biscuit Tuesdays left, so be sure to bring \$2.50 to the intersection of the seventh and eighth grade halls on the dates below:

February 22, 2011
March 8, 2011
March 22, 2011
April 12, 2011
April 26, 2011
May 10, 2011
May 24, 2011

Colorful Ideas

The principal's advisory committee at Veterans Memorial Middle School has been hard at work brainstorming on good ways to improve their school. Perhaps the most popular of the proposals is the painting of murals in the school. Students feel that murals painted by the students could not only help unify them but add color to the bland white walls. Nothing is yet set in stone, but Mr. Peek is working towards putting ideas such as this into action. Through the dedication of both the principal's advisory committee members and Mr. Peek, Veterans can expect to see improvements soon.



By Elise McDonald

February is Black History Month!

People all across America celebrate Black History in their own different ways. Veterans Memorial Middle School is focusing the celebration on African Americans and education. The official theme is "Education Is Key". The whole purpose of this program is to inform students of the effect education has had on African American students in history. There will be a "daily trivia", which are questions about popular heroes who have helped the African Americans' rights. The teachers on the Veterans campus who are African Americans and those who have graduated from African American institutions will be recognized. Also, there will be a collegiate week. This allows the teachers and staff to wear their Alma Maters' colors, and students can wear the colors of the school they would like to attend. There will be a door decorating contest from February 7 to 11 as well. The theme for decorating will be any college or university. Also, there will be a hall decorating contest. Each grade will be given a region of America and will decorate their hall with facts, pictures, etc. On February 25, there will be a final assembly to celebrate Black History Month with performances of all types. With all these activities and events, students at Veterans will have a better appreciation for African Americans and their education.

By Kayla McCord and Morella Briceno

African-Americans Speak OUT at Veterans!

Everyone knows that being proud of an African- American heritage is important. To focus on this, each social studies class will be learning and discussing black history. In January, some students, teachers, and staff took a survey and answered the following questions, "How would you define the importance of being African- American, who is your African- American hero, and what would you do to improve the daily life in the black community?" "African-Americans have a rich history of struggle and accomplishment in this nation. It is important to note that despite the many setbacks that we have faced while in America, we have found a way to persevere and make significant accomplishments to many aspects of American society. It is this ability to overcome hardships and an attitude of self-determination that should make all African-Americans feel proud about their heritage and how far we have come as a race of people," says Mr. James Peek, principal of Veterans, as he defined what was important to him.

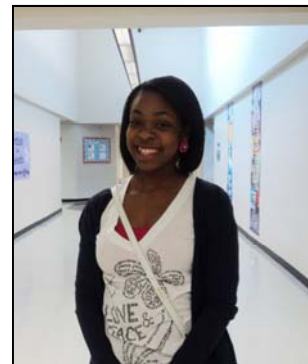
In the past, it has been difficult for African Americans to earn a good living, but now that education and well-paying jobs are available to African- Americans, they feel like they can accomplish anything.

By Mikayla Newton

What would you do to improve daily life in the black community?



"I would teach kids because I feel that it is my responsibility to give kids an education." *Kaiya Samuel, 6th grade student.* "I would play sports and go to college." says *Jaylen Jackson, 6th grade student*



"I would open recreation centers to keep kids off the streets," says *Akua Kwayana, an eighth grade student*

Reading is Leading!

Students all over the school have been actively reading, thanks to a new requirement for students to keep reading logs. The purpose of the reading logs is to have a record for students, parents, and teachers to see how much time the student spends reading. The initial goal for the reading logs is to establish a healthy reading habit for students. It's a year-long plan, and Veterans plans to use the reading logs all year for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. These reasons and more are why the reading log system is all around beneficial to Veterans and its students.

By Abby Vanderwolf and Hailey Garner