

all around information

# generals 360

January 2010

- ★ **Important Dates**
- ★ [January 4](#)  
Teacher Work Day
- ★ [January 6](#)  
Basketball @ Home  
Wrestling @ Indian
- ★ [January 6-22](#)  
Pennies For Patients
- ★ [January 8](#)  
Basketball @ Home
- ★ [January 13](#)  
Basketball @ Home  
Wrestling @ Memorial
- ★ [January 15](#)  
Student of the Month @ 2:30  
Basketball @ Edwards
- ★ [January 18](#)  
Martin Luther King Holiday
- ★ [January 20](#)  
Basketball @ Home  
Wrestling @ Cousins  
Writing Test
- ★ [January 22](#)  
Basketball @ Home
- ★ [January 27](#)  
Basketball @ Home  
Wrestling @ Conyers
- ★ [January 29](#)  
Basketball @ Memorial
- ★ [January 30](#)  
Wrestling @ Indian Creek

★ **Veterans Memorial Middle School**  
 13357 Brown Bridge Rd.  
 Covington, GA 30016  
 770-395-6893



## Ridin' in Style

Veterans Memorial held a fall fundraiser in September. One of the incentives to sell items was the chance to go on a "limo lunch ride". Ten students were treated to lunch and a ride in a limousine. These ten students had to sell twenty-five items, or they could sell thirty items with their friend and take them as well. Emma Golden, David Croone, Jaylan Aaron, Madison Osborne, Bethony Hicks, RanD Martin, Trevor Parks, Sorena Stewart, TeApril Pickens, and Brandy Skinner all rode in a Hummer stretch to Johnny's Pizza for lunch on Wednesday, December 16. Emma Golden says, "It was my first time in a limo. It was pretty interesting



how the seats were set up in the limo." The money from the fundraiser will help run extra programs that Veterans can not afford, such as the Six Star Generals program. Veterans will be sponsoring another fundraiser in the spring. Mrs. Nolan says, "In the past the students have had a great time and they are planning on having a great time this year, and that it gives students a break from school and cafeteria food. Also, it gives them some time to spend with their friends."

By Ella Svirida and Hannah Jackson

## Ready Writing Contest



At 2:00pm on October 21, hopeful writers gathered in the cafeteria to compete in the Ready Writing contest. A total of thirty-five students from Veterans competed. There were winners from each grade. The finalists from Veterans were



Sheniah Ferguson in sixth grade, Whitney Jeanty in seventh grade, and Assata Sanifu in eighth grade. On December 1, they participated in the county competition. Chaperoned by Ms. Causey, they rewrote their entries in room C-2 as finalists from the other Newton County schools wrote their entries, competing against each other. The writing prompt they were given was to write a letter to the principal about a class that they wanted on the schedule and why they wanted it. The contestants found out where they placed on December 3. Assata and Whitney placed second at the county level. Congratulations to our "ready writers".

Veterans is proud to announce that eighth grade student TJ Brookman and seventh grade student Emmanuel Badru tried out for and made the 2009-2010 Honor Band. They will be participating in a concert with students from middle schools in Rockdale, DeKalb, and Newton Counties.

By Tyler Aldridge and Anfernee Cruz



## An Up and Down Season for the Academic Bowl Team

“The answer is the Lincoln Memorial.” The Academic Bowl Team has been spouting answers like this all season long. This year, Veterans Academic Bowl Team has had the best season in its history. After their final meet on December 7 at J.C Booth Middle School, their record was 5 and 9. The members are as follows: Andreana Guillet, Khaila Coissiere, Bianca Hannon, Grier Bobo, Rebecca Merrell, Mia Williams, Emily Willis, Michael Hall, Brandon Johnson and Jeremy Rachels. The team would like to thank all parents for cheering the team on at the meets. Coach Lassiter says, “The Academic Team worked hard all season. In only two years of participation, we have risen in the rank from 23 to 17. I am very proud of all the team members.”



By Brandon Johnson



# generals sports



## Back on the Mat!

The Wrestling Generals are doing it again! “They are doing great! I am very proud of them,” exclaims Coach Robinson. Coach Robinson believes that after their performance at the 2009 Union Grove Middle School Invitational, the wrestlers will do very well this year. The wrestlers placed the highest in Veterans history at the invitational; they also received the most medals! The Generals placed fifth place in the tournament, which is a very big accomplishment. “To place fifth out of twenty-three of the top wrestling programs in the state, is remarkable, to say the least,” says Coach Robinson. The coaches and many Veterans students are very proud of the wrestlers. Wrestlers Max Komar, Justin Howell, Jason Howell and Ryan Adams all performed very well. Max took fourth place in his weight class. He also moved up from the weight class of 112 to 125 in just a month and a half! Justin Howell took third in his weight class; leading ahead was his twin brother Jason Howell who placed second in his weight class. The Veterans’ wrestler who placed first in his weight class was Ryan “The Animal” Adams! Veterans is very proud of all of the wrestlers, and would like to see more supporters for the matches.

By Taylor Crews and Alexis Jones

## Boys’ Basketball



“All of my players contribute with a team effort. All of my players are my best players,” says Coach Adams of the boys’ basketball team. The team kicked off the month of December with five wins and a loss. The Generals scored 39-19 against Liberty, 41-40 against Cousins, 43-19 against Edwards, 25-49 against Indian Creek, 49-48 against Conyers Middle School, and 39-34 against Davis. The basketball team’s toughest opponent so far has been Cousins Middle School, Indian Creek may end up being even stronger. Coach Adams is pleased that he has not had to cut anyone thus far because of issues with grades or behavior.

By Briseida Cabral and Kinsley Gerks

## The Lady Generals Hit the Court Once Again!

The Lady Generals winning streak came to an end on Wednesday, December 10, against the Indian Creek Panthers with the score of 33-36. The Lady Generals battled it out until the end, but lost by 3 points. This was hard on the coaches and the Lady Generals. The Lady Generals redeemed themselves, defeating the Conyers Bulldogs on Friday, December 11 with a score of 38-25. To encourage team spirit, and the highest effort, the team chooses a “*Girly Girl*” player of the game. No player wants this award, so they motivate each other by calling a player who hasn’t worked their hardest a girly girl. This puts pressure on the girls to work harder. Even though they haven’t won every game, the Lady Generals are still a great team.



By Ajah'lai Edghill and Alea Nesbit

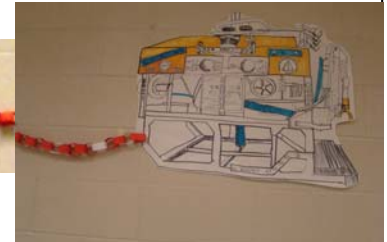


# club news

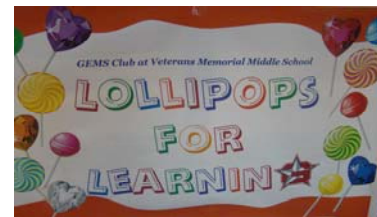
**FCCLA-** On December 8, FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) participated in the Relay for Life Gingerbread House Contest. The entry fee was \$10. In the end, FCCLA won the competition with their gingerbread house. To read more about the Gingerbread House contest, go to the article on page 5, *Gingerbread House Contest*. If you want more information on FCCLA, see Mrs. Worman.



**Marine Technology-** The Marine Technology is starting to work on new tasks for this year's competition. They are trying to complete a vehicle and go to the regional competition in April. Since they needed money, they sponsored a small change drive. Students could donate a dime to add a link to a chain that connected their rover to its control ship that is located in the cafeteria. This fundraiser deadline was December 17. The class that donated the most change, Mrs. Black's class with a total of \$51, won a pizza lunch on December 18. For more information, contact Ms. Pinilla.



**GEMS-** At the beginning of the month of December, GEMS, **G**irls **E**ngaged **I**n **M**eaningful **S**ervices, made decorations that were donated to the Homeless Shelter in Newton County. They also donated two Christmas trees to the shelter. GEMS has also been preparing for the Pennies for Patients Campaign that will be January 6-22. During those three weeks, students and staff will be able to put their spare change to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Georgia. This will also be a competition between homerooms in which the top homeroom will win a pizza party. There will also be a Hat Day for students and staff, a Jeans Day for the staff, and a Penny War. Also, there will be jugs with administrators' name on it. In the Penny War, the administrator with the most change in his or her jug will receive a pie in the face by a student during a pep rally. If you want more information on GEMS, feel free to contact Ms. Jones or Ms. Jackson.



By Anfernee Cruz and Tyler Aldridge.

## Toys for Tots

Everyone deserves to have a wonderful Christmas, even those who can't afford it. Thanks to the United States Marine Core [USMC] the poor children all over the world have something to unwrap every year. Since 1949, toys have been sent to children around the world from local orphanages to Afghanistan. Campus Life sponsored the toy drive, but everyone at Veterans was able to help make it a success. From December seventh to the sixteenth, students as well as faculty, had the chance to drop off any gifts to the box in the front office. By the sixteenth, toys were overflowing the boxes. A grand total of ninety seven items were donated, and Mrs. Reed's homeroom, who donated the most with a total of twenty five, enjoyed a Christmas party on Friday, December 18. A special thanks goes out to everyone who donated to this event.



By Megan Ralston and Ricardo Menchaca



## Media Corner

What's going on in the media center? Veterans' own Ms. Braswell's and Mr. Johnson's teams donated two movies to the media center! In addition to the new movies, the school will be receiving sixty new books, which should be in after the break. During December, the Media Corner was home to a Christmas tree decorated by Ms. Mortimer's sixth grade art classes. The ornaments were created from recycled water bottles and there was a display explaining how they were created. In January, the Peer Helpers and the Book Club members will be going to West Newton Elementary to read to students in Pre-K through second grade.

By Alexis Jones and Gaby Collantes

### Teacher spotlight: Ms. Dunn

Ms. Kathleen Dunn (Katie) has been a social studies teacher at Veterans since the start of it all. Although she was born in Fountain, Colorado, she has lived in various places all over the world. Because her father was in the army she has lived in Iowa, Kansas, Georgia, Germany, and Panama. In addition to living in various places, she has visited countless more, but some of her favorites are Boston, Amsterdam, Paris, Pisa, New Orleans, and Minneapolis. She is the oldest of her two sisters and one brother. She lives with her two cats, Missy and Darcy. She says her heroes are her grandparents. Her grandfather gave her roots so she knows who she is; her grandmother gave her wings so she is not afraid to try new things. In her spare time she enjoys reading. Her favorite authors, she says, would have to be Janet Evanovich and Michael Connelly.

She wanted to be a teacher since her seventh grade year after she read a book called *I Touched the Future*. It was a biography about the first teacher in space, Christa McAuliffe, who was on board the Challenger space shuttle. She earned her bachelors degree at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa. Then to earn her masters degree, she attended Troy University for one year. Although, she went to school to become a literature teacher, Miss Dunn disliked her literature professor, but liked her history professor, and since she liked her history professor, the rest was "history".

She then went on to teach at Hancock Central High School for four years, then came to Veterans when it was still in trailers at West Newton. This is her fourteenth year teaching. She enjoys getting to know her students and interacting with them as they engage in meaningful learning. She says her most difficult part of teaching is that there is not enough time to teach everything she wants. She says that if she wasn't a teacher she would be a novelist. Ms. O'Sullivan, a fellow teacher on team 8 Red, has this to say about Ms. Dunn, "She is very versatile, interesting and into a lot of things. She is a master teacher, and her team loves having her as their social studies teacher."

By Jenna Mitchell and Ashton Stewart



### Are You Ready?

Many students are nervous about the upcoming writing test on January 20-21. Eighth grade students will be required to pass the writing test in order to advance to the ninth grade. Sixth and seventh grade students will be taking a practice writing test to prepare them for the eighth grade. Throughout the past couple of months, teachers have been diligently reviewing the writing process with the students to ensure full understanding. Ms. Barber says that students who use all the time given on the writing test tend to get higher scores. She suggests, "Make sure that you take just enough time to make certain that everything is correct." Ms. O'Sullivan says that you should read the prompt carefully and plan cautiously. She also expects all the students to try their best to beat Indian Creek. Parents should take heed and advise their children to do their best. Here is a list of tips to guarantee a passing score on the writing test:

- Use descriptive vocabulary
- Get enough sleep the night before the test
- Eat a good breakfast the morning of the test

By Andreana Guillet and Milan Mitchell

## Catching the General Idea

Creating the morning announcements for a school population of over a thousand students in less than thirty minutes may be difficult for some, but it's not when the creators have the "general idea." The General Idea is the name of Veterans' morning announcements program. Mr. Hartman's advanced technology class is divided into five teams who produce the show as a weekly assignment, alternating week to week. Based on first hand experience from one of the Generals 360 staff members, Gaby Collantes, who was a guest presenter on the morning announcements, being on camera can be both thrilling yet a bit frightening at the same time. Advanced technology and General Idea member Destiny Mederos says, "Being part of the General Idea is very enjoyable because we get a chance to work hands-on with the filming of a show everyone in the school gets to see." To be part of the General Idea team, creativity is essential as well as the ability to perform well in front of others.

Deciding who creates the show each week is not difficult since the teams have been producing the show since October and are now well organized. The filming of the morning announcements is just the beginning of producing the student-run show. After filming the show every morning, one student goes back and sets the transitions between every announcement and corrects all the errors, as miniscule as they may seem. Filming generally starts at 8:05, or as soon as the students arrive at school. After filming, everything has to be ready to air at 8:30, or as soon as Veterans' principal, Mr. Peek, does the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence. Mr. Hartman says, "The General Idea students are a great, fun-loving, hard working group that has proven to be reliable in getting the show done under high pressure circumstances!" Generals, stay tuned for the advanced technology class's General Idea!



Rayden Landress helps in the morning by filming the morning announcements.

By Gaby Collantes and Andreama Guillet

## Important Reminder: CRCT Testing April 19-23

### Gingerbread House Contest

At 3:45 on Tuesday, December 8, the FCS room was filled with students expressing Christmas cheer. A Gingerbread House Contest was held to raise money for Relay for Life. Any club could enter the contest and the fee to enter was \$10.00. Overall, four clubs entered and \$40 was raised to battle cancer. The organizations that participated were FCCLA, Book Club, Mrs. Garvin's class and Publishing Class. Students from each club worked together to create beautiful masterpieces. Graham crackers and white frosting, which was used as glue, were already provided. The sponsors of each club had to provide the additional decorating supplies. Many types of candies were used, including Red Hots, Twizzlers, Skittles, marshmallows, and Dots. "It was really fun, but kind of messy," says Brandon Johnson. Everyone who participated had a blast.



By Bianca Hannon and Khaila Coissiere

**Happy New Year**  
**from the Generals 360 staff!**

