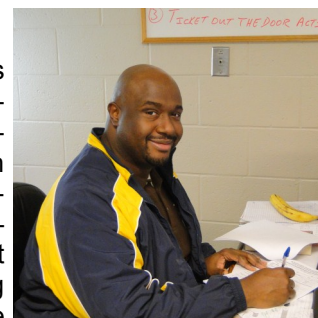


Generals 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

Meeting Coach Robinson

Mr. Kermit Robinson *loves* to coach. Mr. Robinson, now known by many as Coach Robinson, began playing football and wrestling at a very young age. Growing up, Coach Robinson imagined himself joining the Air Force but since his father discouraged this path, he turned his sights on becoming a teacher or a coach of some sort. Now, achieving that vision, Coach Robinson is fortunate to be doing something he loves every day when he comes to work. When he's not teaching or coaching, Coach Robinson likes to fish, lift weights, and watch movies, but he most enjoys spending time with his son and daughter. He first started teaching in Gwinnett County back in 2001. Now, at Veterans, he teaches seventh grade



students Language Arts, co-teaches with Ms. Joan Frix, and also co-teaches Social Studies with Mr. Allen Johnson. He, along with Coach Helm, guides Veterans' amazing wrestling team to victory on a weekly basis.

Coach Robinson began coaching for youth baseball and football teams. He later became interested in coaching wrestling when he came to Veterans. Coach Robinson says what he enjoys most about coaching wrestlers is watching the individual athletes grow as people. Over his five years at Veterans, he has built many friendships with the faculty and staff. His co-workers say that he is calm and laid back, in addition to being an amazing writer who is known for his fabulous e-mails. When his wrestlers hit the mat though, he shows another side. He confesses about himself, "I do have a fiery and competitive side when it comes to coaching and watching sports!" Carley Lively, an eighth grade student, says, "Coach Robinson, at school, is kind of calm and relaxed, but at the wrestling matches and tournaments, he gets involved like it's his own kids out there. He is on the mats yelling and encouraging the wrestlers, through the wins and losses." Christian Hutchinson, a wrestler, says "He is a great help, very understanding, and is great with kids. He's a cool coach!"

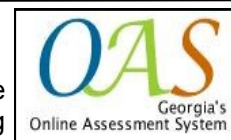
By Hannah Hinton and Deanna Griffin



Gearing Up for the CRCT

Students at Veterans are kicking off the New Year with nervous anticipation about the coming of the CRCT. Even though the standardized test isn't the sole purpose for coming to school, its importance to everyone involved cannot be denied. Mrs. Mary Roach, the assistant principal in charge of testing, has good advice to help students prepare. She says there are certain practices test takers should have during CRCT week. One of them is making sure they have a good amount of sleep and a good nutritious breakfast every morning. Also to prepare thoroughly, it cannot be stressed enough how important it is to stay focused in class. Students may at times think teachers are no fun, but all of the work assigned is designed to help everyone exceed the standards. CRCT practice booklets can help students study at home. Students can also prepare by going to the Georgia OAS website (www.georgiaoas.org.) Students have personal logon names and passwords which give them access to a list of tests available; they can get their logins from homeroom teachers. On the website, students can prepare for tests in language arts, science, social studies, and math. The tests on the website are graded, which allows the students to see how many they missed, and what they need to work on more.

By Courtney Coon and Kaitlyn Doering





Shooting Some Hoops

Dribble, shoot, SCORE! The basketball season hasn't ended yet. With three wins and five losses, the boys are still trying their hardest on the courts. In addition to the work they are doing on the courts, the boys raise money for the season by holding Coke and Domino's Pizza fundraisers. The head coach, Mr. Hollier, and assistant coach, Mr. Rembert, have worked hard making this season the best for the boys. "There's been a lot of improvement. The season is getting better and better. I enjoy seeing the boys grow not only as people, but as players too," Mr. Rembert says about the season. Some of the boys' star players are Mason Calloway and Darvin Jones, who both earned Mr. Rembert's respect as players because they have a great attitude and continually work hard to become better.

"Let's go Lady Generals," says assistant coach Ms. Alexander as she expresses her happiness for the girls' basketball team. With three wins, the girls are giving it great effort. The girls practice every day and even some Saturdays. To raise money, the team has sold Gatorade, popsicles, Domino gift cards, Cokes and so much more. Coach says the star players are Tiarra Thomas, Amari Montgomery, and Catrina Shotwell. Keep it up ladies! By Hallie Mayo and Katie Barton



New Year, New Grades

With the coming of a new year, students are deciding on their academic goals. The General 360 staff interviewed many different groups of students and teachers to find out what their resolutions were. Lance, a sixth grader, when asked what his academic resolution was for this year, his response was, "I want to become a Six Star General because they get a lot of extra privileges and they get to go on special trips." Another sixth grade student, Autumn Wallons, says "I want to study more so I can pass the CRCT and elevate more in life." Seventh grader, Darvin Jones, says his goal is to get at least A's and B's, and to do this he can start asking teachers for extra help after school. "My resolution was to get all A's. If you fail you won't pass eighth grade" says Mary White, an eighth grader. Seventh grade Science teacher, Mrs. Ellis, has an academic goal for her students. Her resolution is to have students focus on vocabulary better so they can succeed in high school and gain a better understanding of words, since science has several words that some students don't understand. Students' grades at Veterans should be on the rise with their commitments to so many great resolutions!


By Natalie Carter and Carley Lively

Enjoying the Blast

The band students traveled to the Cobb Energy Center on January 20, 2012 to see Blast. The students, expecting to watch an orchestra play, were pleasantly surprised to see a musical event, with instruments flying through the air and a drumstick swordfight! In order to go, students had to be on the honor roll for the first nine weeks. This trip was an experience and an adventure. Not only did students learn how a band really works, but it was an adventure filled with great music. Students learned that when a band plays it's not just classical. They could have fun and play too. Afterwards, they were treated with a trip to the Varsity for lunch. Overall, it was a great reward for these hard-working students!


By Kaiya Samuel

 **SCHOLASTIC** Book Fair in the Media Center
February 13-17


Crush Drinks
Do you have a crush? Let them know by sending them a Crush Drink on Valentines day. The GEMS club is holding its fifth annual Crush Drink Fundraiser February 1 through February 13. The cost for a drink is \$1, so don't miss out!

Valentine's Day Dance
Date - February 14, 2012
Time - 4:00-6:00
Hosted By DJ Boom
Cost: \$3

Fitness Testing
On February 27-March 13, Health and PE students will be tested for fitness. This is a national standardized test, and results will be sent home. It is important that everyone is well rested and present on test days.





Stop Bullying Now!



On January 9, 2012, Veterans students experienced in a week of activities centering on bullying prevention awareness. The activities focused on the who, what, when, where, and why's of bullying. Each day a specific topic about bullying was presented. Starting the bullying prevention week off Monday, the lessons focused on what bullying actually is, who does it, and why. Tuesday, they focused more on why people bully and the characteristics of bullies and people who get bullied. The students learned what a bully searches for in a target on Wednesday. A bully looks to see if kids have differences that make them stick out. A bully looks for helplessness in the person getting bullied when they get scared. A bully also looks for isolated kids to torment so it will be easier to intimidate them. The students were also asked if they were getting bullied or, to think if they are the bully. Thursday, the students were given advice that might help or warnings of things that might get them bullied more. Lastly, Friday, the whole school watched a video in enrichment classes, signed a petition, and went to a pep rally where a youth guest speaker, Mr. Sheldon Landy, talked about the consequences of bullying and getting bullied. Hopefully all of the activities and lessons will keep Veterans bully free. By Brianna Devine and Trent Whitmire

Wrestling Generals

The Wrestling Generals have had a good season so far, but the Division Championship is still ahead. The team is number one and still undefeated. There were a few wrestlers who placed first at the Davis Invitational. The season started out with a total of forty-six wrestlers, but due to grades and behavior, they are now down to thirty-three. There are two teams for the wrestlers, the A team and the B team. Wrestlers on the A team are the starters, which contain nineteen of the wrestlers. The B team is all the rest of the wrestlers. Coach Helm and Coach Robinson both feel that there are many wrestlers on the team who have made great progress this year. Coach Robinson feels that not all of the wrestlers give it their all but he does think they all have great potential. With the championship on its way, the wrestlers have to practice more than ever.



By Alyssa Ellis and Gavin Norman

February is Black History Month

Veterans Memorial Middle School has a dream; a dream that students will be able to celebrate Black History Month in different ways with different style. A time was first set aside to focus on black heritage in 1926. The month of February was chosen in honor of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, who were both born in that month. In the past, the contributions and accomplishments of African Americans were omitted from history books. Mrs. Grenetta Turner, who is organizing the month's events says, "Today we continue to recognize the historical and current contributions of African Americans during the month of February. This year the Black History Month committee has decided to focus on African American organizations that have developed over the years to promote civil rights, equal opportunities, and education." The students will present a program titled "Passing the Torch" on Thursday, February 16. There will also be a door decorating contest the week of February 13-15. Each homeroom will display an African American organization on their door. Currently Ms. Alston, Mr. Miller, Ms. Stephens, Ms. O'Sullivan, Mr. Fulton, and Ms. Williams are the faculty members contributing to organizing Black History Month. One of Mrs. Turner's favorite quotes is, "Blessed are those of us who honor our ancestors by pursuing excellence every day, every moment, every second, realizing that excellence is a habit, not an act."



By Emma Golden and Deanna Griffin

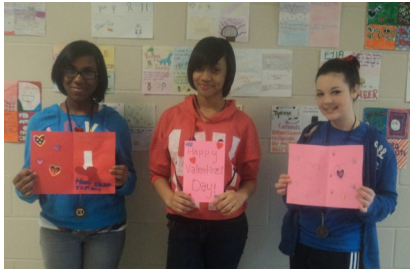
GEMS Get a Taste of College

After finishing first in the county-wide canned food drive, GEMS members were super excited when they were awarded with a trip to Oxford College. While at the college, the GEMS members met players on the Oxford College Men's Basketball Team, took pictures with the players and got some one-on-one time on the court showing the players their skills. GEMS members also attended an Oxford College basketball game and were able to eat lunch with the college students too. Carley Lively says, "It was an amazing experience that you don't get to have very often." At Oxford College, the members of GEMS experienced a glimpse of what to expect in their college years.



By Anjahlia Dooley and Kayla Maben





Will You Be My Valentine?

The BETA club is filled with love. This month, the BETA club is making Valentine's Day goodie bags and cards for Riverside Health Care Center in Covington, Georgia. The patients rarely get special treats like this, so the members of the BETA club were happy to volunteer. The BETA members attended meetings the morning of Thursday, January 19, and February 2, to make the Valentine cards and the goodie bags. The members had an exciting time decorating the cards and stuffing the goodie bags. The BETA sponsors, Ms. Ellis and Ms. Moran, and some of the BETA members, will travel

to the nursing home on February 14, at 5:00p.m. to deliver the valentines. It was a very loving and caring experience that the BETA members won't forget!
By Hannah Hinton and Baylee Friedman

World Cultures Club

At Veterans, students have a wonderful chance to learn about other countries. The World Cultures Club was started to give students an opportunity to learn about the culture of other countries and learn to appreciate the holidays that other countries celebrate. The club sponsor, Mr. Allen Johnson, has many goals for the club one of which is to be able to make contact with students from other countries. He also wants to raise money to take field trips to places where members can experience many cultures in that one place. At meetings, the club members talk about what culture they want to study about. Mr. Johnson's goal is to make this club one of the largest clubs at Veterans. Sarah Cato, an eighth grade student says, "I like the World Cultures Club because you learn about different cultures and learn how they are different from our cultures." Seventh grade student, Jordan Smith says, "I like the World Cultures Club because I can learn what it is like in other countries."



By Maddie Beveridge

FCCLA Is Back In Business

Family Career and Community Leaders of America, also known as FCCLA, was originally founded in 1995, but Ms. Lorri Worman introduced the club four years ago to Generals at Veterans Memorial Middle School. When students join, they pay \$20 for state and national dues, activities and monthly meetings. The fundraisers that FCCLA is doing will be used to help pay for camp, trips and projects that the members will be doing. All club members are eligible to go on a trip to a FFA/FCCLA Camp four days out of the 2012 summer. Their current



fundraiser is selling raffle tickets to win season passes to Six Flags for five dollars. Ms. Worman also sells cookies for fifty cents, which are always in high demand. Being a part of this club gives students skills to make them successful adults. The qualities needed to be a good FCCLA member are being motivated and having a positive attitude. Kayla Maben says, "FCCLA helps members develop social, culinary, financial, and leadership skills. It shows us to be leaders not followers and direct other to the right path."
By Anjahlia Dooley and Kayla Maben



Honors Chorus—On Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 4:00 p.m., over 150 middle school students and 75 high school students came together to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association District IV Honors Chorus in Avondale Estates, Georgia. Only five students from Veterans were able to perform. Pictured above are Kayla Gary, Sha-Rah Ziyad, Allyson Bently, Taylor Carter, Maddie Beveridge and Mr. Miller, the Chorus teacher.

By Maddie Beveridge

It's Time to Start Training!

Mr. Michael Bigby is the head coach for track this year. He is very excited to start the season. The tryouts for track season are in early February. To make the team, students need to bring a signed physical form and also be at tryouts every day. Even though many students will try out, not everyone is going to make it unless there are not enough athletes for the team to compete. Mr. Bigby recommends getting ready by running half a mile each day. Mr. Michael Bigby says, "Run this distance regularly and you will be ready." Track season this year will be short and Mr. Bigby also urges, "I will be pushing my athlete's right from the start." So Generals, get ready to run!

By Jahlil Edwards and Michael Gray

