

all around information

generals 360

March 2010

Important Dates

March 26
Student of the Month 2:30

April 1
Dance 4-5:30

April 2
Early Release
Hoops for Veterans

April 5-10
Spring Break
Eighth Grade
Washington Trip

April 19-23
CRCT

April 26-30
Cheerleading
Tryouts

April 27
Post CRCT
Dance

April 30
Eighth Grade Six
Flags Trip

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



All for One at Veterans

From quilts to pound cakes, Veterans finds many ways to care for its Generals. Mr. Jim Puckett, a beloved teacher and coach who taught at Veterans from 2001-2008, was recently burned in a terrible accident. In order to help him and his family, Veterans' students and faculty donated money, gas cards, and gift cards to provide for necessities during this time. A group of teachers, headed by Mrs. Mansfield, raised money with a Fat Daddy's BBQ. Coach Sammons organized a Chik-Fil-A night fundraiser to raise money for the Puckett fund. Mrs. Alexander raised \$340 by baking and selling pound cakes, which Mr. Puckett loved while he taught at Veterans. To give Mr. Puckett something that reminds him of home, a few teachers stayed after school to make a soft quilt for the hospital room. It consists of a collage of all the things he loves. One of Mr. Puckett's close friends, Mr. Mistovich, is planning some more summer activities for the teachers such as golf tournaments, a country concert, and a flag football game for any students who wish to participate. All proceeds will be going to the Pucketts. Friends and family are deeply concerned about him, and everyone is hoping he will be better as soon as possible.

By Megan Ralston and Jacob Carter



Fresh Baked Cookies for Sale!!!

Otis Spunkmeyer hot cookies are for sale during homeroom on Wednesdays and Fridays through April. Available flavors include Chocolate Chip, White Chocolate Macadamia Nuts, and Red, White, Blue (Cranberry, White Chocolate, and Blueberry.)

All proceeds benefit Relay for Life.

1/.50
or 2/\$1

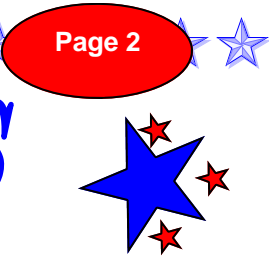
Did you know?
Thus far in 2010, Veterans has donated items or funds to six different charities or causes.

Who Could It Be?

Rumors were flying about two celebrities serving food in the cafeteria on the morning of March 10. It turns out the two celebrities who were serving food were assistant principals, Mr. Taylor and Ms. Roach. To show the cafeteria workers how much they are appreciated, they volunteered to take over their duties for a day. Mr. Taylor claims, "Mrs. Brenda said that we had to." Coach Roach wants to assure everyone that she and Mr. Taylor did *not* cook the food; they only served it to the students of Veterans.



By Briseida Cabral and Hannah Jackson



generals sports

Junior Varsity Sports at Alcovy

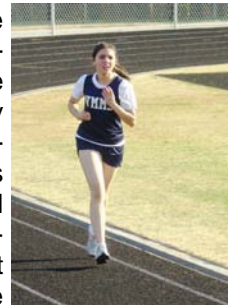
Since many high school sports are not offered at the middle school level, state law allows eighth grade students to try out for junior varsity teams at the high schools they will attend. Many students, boys and girls, from Veterans tried out for Alcovy's athletic JV teams. Many made it, but unfortunately some didn't. Those who made the girls JV soccer team include Morgan Bradford, Briseida Cabral, Taylor Crews, Hannah Jackson, and Alex Jordan. Eighth grade boys who made the JV soccer team were Trent Jackson, Bryce Jackson, Houston Kent, and Cole Patterson. Both boys' and girls' soccer coaches, Phillip Davidson, Mindy Alexander, Chris Edgar, and Scott Rains looked for good attitudes, good ball skills, speed, agility, and the ability to work with their team members. They also looked for players who they thought would be good for next year's varsity team. Before each game, players warm up by running, dribbling, passing, shooting, and practicing other skills. At practices, the coaches have the players scrimmage, which helps them learn to work together as a team.

Quite a few eighth grade boys also made the baseball team. Tristen Payne, Blake Pike, Ricardo Menchaca, Evan Howell, Levi Langford, and Nanpon Ross are all playing for Alcovy teams. The coaches for boys' baseball, Casey Bates, Ryan Denison, Chad Gillespie, and Rick Jacobson, looked for boys that could hit well, had speed, could catch, had a good attitude, and had good sportsmanship. All coaches are happy with the choices they made, and are looking forward to a great season.

By Taylor Crews and Morgan Bradford

Runners, On Your Mark!

Whoosh! Is it a bird or plane? No, it's the General's track team. The Generals are back at it again, getting ready to defeat their competition. Ms. West has been selling lollipops to raise money for warm-ups for the entire team. So far the team has raised six hundred dollars. Tryouts were held February 22-25. The meeting for interested students had around two-hundred people there. Forty-five students and three managers made the team. Both of the coaches, Ms. West and Mr. Bigby feel that they have a solid team this season. Unlike last year, the runners' enthusiasm to run long distance has increased. Coach West anticipates that the team will be well-rounded and versatile. "We did very well considering all that we face at the first meet of the season," said Coach Bigby. Despite these difficulties, Veterans' boys took second place. In a nail biter, the Veterans' girls barely lost to the Conyers Middle School with only six points separating the two teams.



Looking forward, the Generals are still aiming for the NewRock Championships after winning the Newton County meet last year. Ms. West says, "The truth is that running hurts. No one will ever get better without meeting their personal pain barrier. It really takes dedication to keep going."

By Ajah'lai Edghill and Alea Nesbit

Wrestling Generals - A Final Look

Sadly, the wrestling season is over, but the Wrestling Generals left the season with pride! They made it to the NewRock Championship, held at Indian Creek, and won second place! In the tournament, Justin "All-Star" Howell and Ryan "The Animal" Adams both won first place and Cole "Maniac" Patterson took home second. Way to go guys! The Wrestling Generals recently found a way to use their skill and talent to benefit others. To help raise money for the Debate Team's "Help for Haiti Fundraiser," the boys in blue pinned fifteen wrestlers from Liberty which raised a total of \$151, because every pin paid \$8.75. The coaches are very proud of the wrestlers; they had nothing but good things to say. "They did excellent! I'm very encouraged. I have high hopes for my seventh grade," says Coach Robinson. Coach Mattison says, "The season went really well, they improved over the last year by placing at Union Grove."

By Alexis Jones and Khaila Coissiere



Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Robinson

The patient and caring Tonique Robinson, otherwise known as Mrs. Robinson, teaches seventh grade Language Arts at Veterans. "I've always wanted to become a teacher since I was a little girl playing with my dolls," says Mrs. Robinson. Her high school teachers also inspired her to be a teacher. Mr. Arena, Veterans' former principal, hired Mrs. Robinson four years ago. She enjoys knowing she can make a difference in a student's life. A lot is required to become a teacher. Tonique Robinson earned a Masters degree in education after earning Bachelors degree in a different field. She was born and raised in Walterboro, South Carolina on the infamous day of September 11. Mrs. Robinson likes gardening, which is why she is looking forward to spring. She also enjoys spending time at the beach. Mrs. Robinson is married with four children, including a set of twin boys.



From teaching, Mrs. Robinson has learned that you never stop learning. Almost everyday, she learns something new about what she's teaching, about herself, or just things in general. Patience, being a people-person, and the ability to communicate with everyone, are important traits to have. Mrs. Robinson says, "It's not your *apitude*, but your *attitude*, that determines your *altitude*."

By Bianca Hannon and Hannah Jackson

Veterans' Got History!

Every year, during the entire month of February, America celebrates Black History Month, and so did Veterans! Many teachers assigned projects for their classes to do. Students researched African-Americans, and their achievements and contributions to the world. The theme for the month was "History is Made at Every Age," to encourage students to begin now to make history.



On February 24, Veterans was visited by Mr. Louie McKinney. Why is this man so important? In addition to being Veterans' Coach Mattison's uncle, he was the very first African-American to be an U.S Marshal! He spoke to students during their connections classes about his exciting life, and his career choices. To find out more about Mr. McKinney, students can read his book, "One Marshal's Badge," which is located in the media center.

On February 26, the annual Black History assembly was held. The entire school gathered together in the gym to learn, celebrate and be entertained. As Veterans listened and watched talented students sing, rap, dance and recite poetry, they experienced a taste of the past with the flavor of the present. "Black History Month is a tribute to the relationship of the African Culture to the American melting pot. The discrimination, segregation, and inferior attitudes that the Africans experienced did not stop their desire to make America better. However, historians did not to recognize these talented individuals. Through Black History Month, many can learn what African Americans have contributed to the U.S.A. and the world. Hopefully, we can kill the myths, destroy the hatred, and learn to live together," says Mr. Taylor, one of Veterans' assistant principals.



To add to all of the activities, on Friday, February 26, there was a luncheon held from 11am-1pm in the FCS room for faculty and staff. The luncheon was to celebrate African-American culture and everyone who attended was asked to bring their best Sunday dinner dish. The luncheon was an opportunity for Veterans' staff to fellowship with one another as they celebrated the achievements of African-Americans in history. A selected group of students performed for the staff during the luncheon. Different grade levels were assigned to bring different foods for the luncheon. All in all, Veterans' celebration of Black History was a success!



By Alexis Jones and Khaila Coissiere



club news

FCCLA- The FCCLA joined with the Debate team, the Wrestling team and the Media Center in the Veterans' "Help for Haiti" to raise money for the Red Cross. The Family Career and Community Leaders of America students made enough cookie dough to bake 300 chocolate chip cookies. They then sold the cookies to faculty, students, parents, and other school visitors on February 4, collecting \$100. In total, the "Help for Haiti" committee raised \$542.71 to help victims of the earthquake in Haiti.



Three FCCLA members went February 27 to participate in the STAR Events. They were Tymiria Felder, Jasmine Turnipseed, and Allyha Saintkits.

Campus Life- Campus Life is still meeting every Friday from 7:45 to 8:30 am. Campus Life is a club that anyone can join. It's a time for Christians to come together and talk with other fellow Christians. They meet in the chorus room every Friday. The main speakers are Robbie Norman and Justin Long, but students are more than welcome to speak if they wish. Orlando Gomez, who attends weekly, says he comes "to thank the Lord" and Max Komar attends so he can figure out how to live his life to the fullest. For more information, contact Mrs. Reed or Coach Sammons.

G.E.M.S.- The G.E.M.S. girls held a Crush Drink sale for Valentines Day. The drinks were being sold for one dollar each. They sold over one hundred Crush drinks and the profits went to their project of Teacher Appreciation. G.E.M.S. is also going to assist in the Special Olympics Track & Field event in April. They are going to serve as buddies for the athletes and some will also operate some of the events.

By Anfernee Cruz and Tyler Aldridge



Career Day

On March 12, 2010, Veterans hosted career day. Career day is an activity that was implemented at Veterans to introduce the students to a variety of career options. Speakers were fed a nice breakfast and were provided information to help them prepare for their presentations. Close to seventy members of the community came and gave speeches to classes. Each team had four speakers who gave brief twenty-five minute presentations. Speakers shared the education, training, and pay range for their prospective careers. "Career day was a success!" says Mrs. Turner, a counselor at Veterans who organized the event.

By Briseida Cabral and Brandon Johnson



Maverick Geeslin, an eighth grade student in Ms. Rachels' class, answers a question from Sean Barnave, a sound designer.



Jamil Williams, a IT Computer Tech talks to Mr. Bigby's sixth grade class.



Jane Hall, a Forensic Technician with the GBI, talks about her job.

Hoops for Veterans - April 2

Students, don't forget to sign up for Hoops for Veterans. The cost is \$2 to play and \$1 to hang out in the gym and watch. To sign a team up for the 5 vs. 5 tournament, see Coach Sammons during homeroom.



A Trip to Fox

A trip to the Atlanta's Fox Theatre is something every middle school girl would love. Four students, Latoria Chatman, Mytoya Lackey, Sarah Mitchell, and Emerald Little, were all given this wonderful experience on a trip to the Fox Theatre by Veterans' Officer McCoy. Officer McCoy took these young ladies on the trip to the Fox Theatre for Black History month and to let them have an experience outside of Covington. To her, it was a cultural experience. They went to see the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre and later enjoyed their meal at the Cheesecake Factory. Being introduced to new experiences, they found they really enjoyed the dance, and discovering appetizers. They learned dining room etiquette while at the Cheesecake Factory. "If we do well, somebody will treat you good. There are nice people in the world!" says Latoria.



By Bianca Hannon and Assata Sanifu

Relay T-shirt Contest

"Hau'oli La Lanau" is a Hawaiian phrase that means Happy Hawaiian Birthday. This is Veterans' theme for this year's Relay for Life fundraiser.



One of the ways VMMS has chosen to participate in the Annual Newton County Relay for Life event is by allowing the students to design t-shirts for the theme. The shirt must include the following:

the theme. The shirt must include the following:

- It must be related to the theme.
- It must also be related to Relay for Life.
- It must include the name Veterans Memorial Middle School.
- It must have no more than 4 colors.

The shirt will be salmon colored. The person with the winning design will receive a twenty dollar cash prize and a free t-shirt. Local businesses can also place their logos on the back of the t-shirt for a fee of fifty dollars. Designs should be submitted to Mrs. Mortimer no later than Wednesday, March 17.

Relay for Life is an organization that gives everyone a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones, and fight back against the disease. Anyone who is interested in joining the Relay for Life team at Veterans, please e-mail Coach Didi Davis.

Are YOU Ready?

During the CRCT testing, there are many things a student can do to prepare for the test. This is very important for the student's future. The test determines if he or she is promoted to the next grade. Looking over old notes from the school year can always improve the student's chances of remembering something that he or she may have forgotten. Trying to cheat on the test is a big no-no. There are some good strategies listed below:

- A good night's rest is always a good idea.
- Eat a good balanced breakfast.
- Study, study, study!
- Don't eat a lot of sugar.
- Go to the bathroom before the test begins.
- Always bring two pencils!
- Focus and read over each question.
- Don't Christmas tree!
- Take your time.
- Don't cheat!

There is a website called OAS to help students prepare. The link to it can be found in the student links section of Veterans' web page. Students have been given a log-in in and password to this website from their home-room teachers. Students should go to this website at least once a week to receive help with different things that may be on the Benchmark. This website also has questions similar to those that will appear on the CRCT. Parents may also view activities and see how their child is doing. The reports given are all states' standards. This website has helped students in the past and still has the potential to help them now.



By Briseida Cabral and Alexis Hale

Coach Sammons' Bracelets

In June, Coach Neal Sammons and his wife are going on a mission trip to Honduras. To raise money needed for the trip, he is selling bracelets. These bracelets are known as "Threads of Hope". Each one was handmade by the people in a village in the Philippines. These bracelets are the only source of income for this village. The ladies of the community pick and mix the colors of the strings and wind them into bracelets. After the bracelets are finished the people of the village give them to missionaries for the Threads of Hope Organization. The missionaries then sell them throughout their jobs and communities. The first two hundred bracelets sold quickly and more have been ordered. Each bracelet was sold for one dollar. Hopefully, he will sell many more, helping both the village in the Philippines and the missionaries to Honduras. By Alex Jordan and Jenna Mitchell



S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G B-E-E

Who can spell "paramecium" from memory? Students who participated in Veterans' school-wide spelling bee on January 15 can. Quest teacher, Mrs. Rachels, was in charge of organizing and running the spelling bee. In order to participate, students had to win their class bee, and then the team bee. To prepare for the spelling bee, classes were given study guides with words from the National Spelling Bee. The winning word for school-wide winner Hunter Terrell was "anticoagulant." She went to the county spelling bee on January 29, but unfortunately did not progress any further. Mrs. Rachels said, "I think all who participated in the school wide spelling bee were well prepared and took it seriously."



By Andreana Guillet and Ashton Stewart

Veterans Gives Hope to Haiti

The tragedy in Haiti was heartbreaking, so Mr. Allen Johnson, a seventh grade Social Studies teacher and sponsor of the Debate Team, decided to step in and raise money for the cause. The Debate team, Wrestling Generals, fines from the media center, and FCCLA all helped raise the money for the tragic earthquake victims in Haiti. The total amount of money raised was \$542.71. This generous donation will be used for rebuilding Haiti and medical care for the unfortunate citizens. Prior to the fundraiser, there was no goal, but Mr. Johnson did expect to raise at least \$150. Because Mr. Johnson wanted people to feel assured the money would be used wisely, he gave the money Veterans raised to the American Red Cross. "America is the most generous country and has room to help all countries. Haiti continues to need support, but be mindful that Chile also needs our help," says Mr. Johnson.



By Assata Sanifu and Ella Svirida

All the Right Notes

"La la la la la la la!" It takes a lot more than just that to make it into honor chorus. Just ask Grier Bobo, Marissa Todus, and Maya Brooks. Coached by Veterans' own chorus director Mr. Miller, these three young ladies were hand-picked out of their chorus class to go perform for a daylong program at Stevenson High School. On January 23, at seven o'clock these gifted students were given the opportunity to represent Veterans' vocal talents. This program was not a competition. It was the GMEA (Georgia Music Educators Association) district honors chorus for middle school and high school students. Seventeen other schools took part in this event. The girls worked hard to learn four songs for this event. The three singers performed Turtle Dove, Chasing with Joyful Pleasure, Can You Hear?, and Every Night When the Sun Goes Down. This is the first time Veterans has been involved with honor chorus since Mr. Miller has been the chorus director at the school. This event happens every year, around January. They all did an *amazing* job and it all turned out quite grandly. Veterans is proud to have such talented singers. "The girls have participated actively with the VMMS chorus over the years. This participation gave them an opportunity to represent Veterans at the district level. I am very proud of all of their accomplishments," says Mr. Miller.



By Gaby Collantes and Andreana Guillet

