

VETERANS  
MEMORIAL  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

# GENERALS 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

March 2009

## Important Dates

March 3

Title Meeting 6:30 in Cafeteria

March 6

Hoops for Heart

March 13

Hoops for Heart

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Dance

March 19

End 3rd Nine Weeks  
Early Release Day

March 20

**Student Holiday**

March 23

Begin 4th Nine Weeks

March 24

Peer Helper Conference

March 26

Report Cards Issued

## Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Mortimer

Many teachers at Veterans love to see their students accomplish things they didn't know they could and feel pride in everything they do, including their work. One of the teachers who loves her students to express themselves through their work is Veterans' art teacher, Mrs. Christy Mortimer. Mrs. Mortimer has been the art teacher at Veterans for six years. Her inspiration to become an art teacher not only came from her love of art that began when she was young, but also from her desire to share her passion for art with children. Surprisingly though, Mrs. Mortimer hasn't always wanted to be an art teacher. Originally, she wanted to go to school to be an interior designer, but realized when she was taking all of her art classes that she wanted to teach art.



In order to become the art teacher she is today, Mrs. Mortimer went to Georgia State University to earn her Bachelors Degree in Studio Art and her Masters Degree in Art Education. She is now working on a Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Piedmont College, where she will be graduating this summer. As an art teacher, Mrs. Mortimer says her favorite artist is Norman Rockwell, because he depicted twentieth century American life with his cover illustrations for the Saturday Evening Post. She also says Rockwell was her mother's favorite artist, so she had his prints hanging in her room as a little girl.



Mrs. Mortimer's hometown is Rome, Georgia, and she has one sibling, a younger brother. Mrs. Mortimer has been married for eight years and has a three year old son. Mrs. Mortimer's hobbies outside of school consist of coaching and playing soccer and working on her personal artwork. When Mrs. Mortimer is not teaching, you can find her in the hallways in the morning on hall duty or with Coach Davis, dealing with any important activities going on at Veterans, including working on the school yearbook.



Mrs. Mortimer says her best memory at Veterans was when a Veterans' student's artwork was displayed at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. The worst part of Mrs. Mortimer's job is only having nine weeks a year with her students because she feels she is limited to the content of art she can teach in such little time. Mrs. Mortimer says "A teacher needs to have good classroom management, good rapport, and a love for the subject they teach in order to be a good teacher." When asked to describe herself in three words Mrs. Mortimer says she's "organized, dedicated and hard-working." "Art is a visual way for students to express themselves and is all over Veterans," Mrs. Mortimer says, "I believe art has the power to challenge students' minds and stir up their feelings. It has the means of visual communication."

By Kaylin Johnson and Megan Barnett

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# Generals Sports

## Basketball Recap

The Lady Generals' basketball season was great! The ladies have been undefeated for two years. They have won the championship for the past three years. Their record for 2009 is 17-0. This feat took a great deal of hard work and dedication. The Generals practiced everyday for at least two hours. Coach Fulton says the girls cooperated well. The two toughest teams were Indian Creek and Davis Middle School. The Lady Generals pushed through, and ended up with a three point win in both games. The captains were Megan Tucker, Precious Price, Ashley Williams, and Kaci Palo. The team motivator was D'Lexus Harvey. The Lady Generals



won against Indian Creek with a final score of 31-26. Megan Tucker, one of the team captains, says, "Clements was one of the best teams, but we won both times we played them this season." It took a lot of time, sweat, and hard work to win every game, but the Lady Generals stomped the competition. The Generals' boys' basketball team fought hard and long this season. The boys finished the season with a 5-10 record. Practicing hard for one and a half hours everyday, the boys persevered to have a successful year. The game against Clements the last game of the season, and unfortunately the Generals were defeated with a score of 41-35. Most valuable player, Cornell White, tried to lead the team in the best way possible. One of the team captains, Justin Wallace, says, "The best part of the season was when we won our first game." Coach Davis adds, "Davis and Edwards Middle Schools were the two toughest teams to beat." Despite some disappointment, the Generals never surrendered.



By Torey Hinton, Kimberley League and Derrick Felix

## Veterans Students Play Baseball for Alcovy

Four eighth grade students from Veterans are playing baseball for the Alcovy high school Tigers this spring. They are Robert Gahwiler, Drew Kendall, Joaquin Ross, and Sean McLean. The Generals 360 staff caught up with shortstop/pitcher Drew Kendall to see how he feels about this year's season. According to Drew, the tryouts were tough and challenging, and he hopes that his team will go 16-0. Eighth graders are allowed to play for the high school because baseball is not offered in middle school, therefore they are allowed to play up. Below is a schedule of the games that will be played in March. Come out and support our eighth grade boys.



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By Bret Dunn

Dates	Opponent	Location
7-Mar	Newton	Alcovy (Austin)
12-Mar	Rockdale	Rockdale
14-Mar	Oconee	Oconee (Austin)
21-Mar	Oconee	Alcovy (Austin)
28-Mar	Eastside	Alcovy (Austin)



Dates		Opponents	Time
Mar.2	JVB/JVG	at Ola	7:00
Mar.9	JVB/JVG	Newton at home	6:30
Mar.23	JVB/JVG	at Jackson	5:30
Mar.26	JVB/JVG	Newton at home	6:30
Mar.27	JVB/JVG	at Eastside	6:30

## Generals Wrestling Season

The Generals Wrestling team recently traveled to Edwards' New Rock warzone to collide with other participants for gold. In the process, they tried to snag a first or second place trophy as well. In third place were Justin Goodwin, Dalton Cady, Ricardo Menchaca, and Justin Howell; second place winner was Dorin Flynn, and Kingsley Ejike won first place. The Generals had a great season with an overall record of five wins and six losses and finished fifth in the league. Team members finished the season with good records and one particular individual, Kingsley Ejike maintained a perfect record.

The team was satisfied with the end results and was content with their improvements. Coaches Robinson and Plemons are looking forward to coming back stronger and bringing back another banner next year. The coaches are also looking for new talent who are willing to come and lay it all on the mat next year. The team thanks all who supported them and those who will continue support them. They strongly encourage wrestling fans to come out and cheer on the Generals next year for another extraordinary season.

By Andrea Broadwater, Torey Hinton and Justin Goodwin



## Veterans is On the Run

This year at Veterans there is an explosive force arriving at the school; it is the Veterans Track team. Tryouts were February 9-13, and the coaches, Ms. West and Mr. Bigby, looked for runners with dedication and enthusiasm. The track participants were timed against each other for fastest times in their events. The field event participants had their throwing distances checked and learned some tips from previous team members. The 2009 track team consists of about 25 boys and 25 girls, a total of 50 members. Official practices began February 23 after the Winter Break. The track coaches made it clear that if a track participant did not have his/her physical and consent forms he or she couldn't come to track practice. The 360 staff caught up with Ms. West and discussed her experience with track at Veterans. She has been coaching at Veterans for two years. She says she is determined to win a championship this year. The team's first track meet will be on March 9. Following meets will occur on March 13, 21, and the 27. Good luck to all the runners. Come out and support our Veterans Generals!



By James Barnes and Duronte Carter

## Black History Month 2009

Veterans had big plans for Black History Month this year. The Black History Month Committee, headed by Mr. Allen Johnson had different staff members coordinate various activities. Informative fliers and posters were created by Ms. Chermika Curry, performers and speakers for the assembly were chosen by Ms. Denna Alston, Ms. Janelle Garner, and Mr. Eric Taylor. Ms. Roxanne Waller and Ms. Angel West were in charge of the "How I Will Make a Change in the World" essay contest, and daily Black history trivia questions were created by Ms. Angel West and announced every morning by Mr. Eric Arena.



The people who answered the Black history trivia questions correctly had their names put into a raffle, and Keyonna Manning's name was drawn at the Black history assembly. She received a twenty-five dollar gift card to Foot Locker. Mr. Bigby had his class do a project. They had to do a collage on an African-American person who is famous or who has made a significant contribution in the areas of science, medicine, math, or engineering. Also, Mr. Fulton had his class do some projects on some suggested Black history individuals who have made a contribution to Black society.

By Toni Simmons, Christina Dixon, and Alaysia McKenzie

### Pep It Up!



On February 5, the Generals got fired up at the athletic pep rally. Basketball and wrestling coaches introduced their players, cheerleaders performed, and the Step Team put on a show. Coach Palmer led the spirit stick competition, which pumped the students and teachers up to cheer on the Generals.

By Selena Vance and Kimberley League

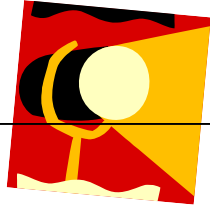
### Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl

The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl is a reading comprehension competition that is state-wide. It was originated by Helen Ruffin, a media specialist, and its first competition was held in March of 2003. Newton County middle and high Schools participated this year. The schools participating are required to read a series of books and answer comprehension questions. The Newton County Bowl was held January 31, 2009 at Eastside High School. Veterans placed first in the middle school division, and Alcovy High School placed first in the high school division. Both the runners-up and the first place winners from both divisions moved on to the regional competition. The regional competition was held February 7, 2009 at Clayton State College. Veterans placed fourth. It was truly an experience. After all, this was the county's first time in this competition, and the "Reading Generals" set the bar high! After the closing ceremonies at Clayton State, the team departed and celebrated by going out to lunch!



(From left to right)Front: Mrs. Coleman, Noelle Turner, Morgan Frank, and Kya Walker. Back: Mrs. Sanders, Jaylynn Bailey, Cati Avelotis, Amy Aikens, and Rebekah Herring.

By Aimee Conde and Noelle Turner



## Agenda Spotlight

Veterans is currently experiencing problems with vandalism and obscenity. Students need to try and keep classrooms and trailers clean. Vulgar and obscene things have been scribbled on bathroom walls, making the restrooms unsightly and unpleasant to use. On pages thirty and thirty-five, the agenda clearly states policies concerning vandalism and obscenity.

Obscenity is defined as "Using profane, and\ or obscene words or gestures, or improper dress, possession of pornographic materials." The disposition is as follows: "The penalty, at the discretion of the administrator, may include parent contact, after school detention, ISS, Saturday detention, Project Decision, suspension, or suspension for formal hearing. If the obscenity is directed toward any school system employee, the disposition will result in a ten day suspension from school and may result in a formal hearing."

Vandalism is defined as, "Willful and/or malicious destroying, vandalizing of, and/or threatening to destroy/ deface public or private property located on school premises or at a school function without the consent of the owner. This may include such actions as pulling or vandalizing fire alarms, calling 911, the deliberate destruction or defacement of school property i.e. graffiti , spray painting on walls etc..." The punishment is at the discretion of the administrator, immediate restitution for damages and/or suspension for formal hearing. The principal or designee shall notify law enforcement officials. "

These consequences should cause students to cease this behavior and become more mature. If this behavior continues, then the students will face suspension. Students should all help out and make Veterans a cleaner, more pleasant place to learn and grow.  
By Justin Goodwin and Megan Barnett

## Campus Life

Students are meeting with God in the Chorus room at Veterans every Friday morning at 8 o'clock. Five years ago the First Priority Program, now called Campus Life, was established. Campus Life is a student-led organization for the outreach of the Christian ministry at Veterans. It is also a place for fellowship and a time to learn about God. According to Mrs. Reed, one of the sponsors, students should come to learn how to live the best life possible. The establishment of Campus Life was motivated by students. Students enjoy coming on Fridays, and usually there is a youth pastor from the community to come and deliver a message. The students are also able to share stories, testimonies or devotionals whenever they like. Mrs. Reed has been a sponsor since the Campus Life program was started, and Coach Sammons has been a sponsor since the 2006-2007 school year. If you enjoy fellowship with your friends, and you love learning about God, then Campus Life is the place for you.



By Mariah Patton and Bret Dunn

## Dining in Style

Students from Veterans were treated to limo ride and lunch on January 23. These enterprising students sold at least twenty-five items for the Fall fundraiser before the first turn-in date. If they had a friend who sold five items before the turn in date, their friend was able to ride along with them. The students who attended were Callie Middlebrooks, Lacie Kenny, Desire'e Evert, Courtney Roberson, Micah Williams, Morella Bricno, Ashlyn Mealar, Brianna Johnson, Jonathan Mann, Alex West, and Alexis Bailey.  
By Nakea Clark



### Attention Readers!

The Generals 360 newsletter is available in digital form only. It is linked to our school web site and is available via e-mail. If you are interested in receiving it electronically every month, we need your e-mail address. Send an e-mail to [esguerra.carla@newton.k12.ga.us](mailto:esguerra.carla@newton.k12.ga.us) letting us know that you are interested. Here at VMMS, we believe that all parents/guardians should stay informed of all that is going on at our school, and we are pleased to give you this option. Thank you for your interest in your child's education!

## Girl Talk

Every Thursday morning from 7:45-8:15, there is a place at Veterans where girls and only girls talk. Girls meet in the chorus room to talk about their feelings. Everything said is kept confidential. When the girls go into the chorus room, Ms. Alston or one of the other sponsors introduces a subject and all the girls discuss the topic. Ms. Alston's goal in Girl Talk is for girls to have an open forum with solid advice about life. The Generals 360 asked how this program will help the girls in the future. Ms. Alston says, "I would like for the girls to be able to make good decisions, to stand alone, and not follow the crowd." If you are a girl, and if you want a place to share your feelings, then come to Girl Talk!

By Andrea Broadwater



## "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Veterans Memorial Middle School had a Career Day on Friday January 31. Students had people they know volunteer to come speak about their careers. During this time the classrooms at Veterans were filled with lawyers, teachers, police officers, doctors, travel agents, chefs, fire fighters and more. The whole point of Career Day was to help students decide what they want to be when they grow up. The volunteers explained why they chose the career they are working in, how much they get paid, and what they do. After each volunteer spoke, the students had an opportunity to ask questions and find out more about that job. Some of the guest speakers even brought small items to give out to the classes in which they spoke. The



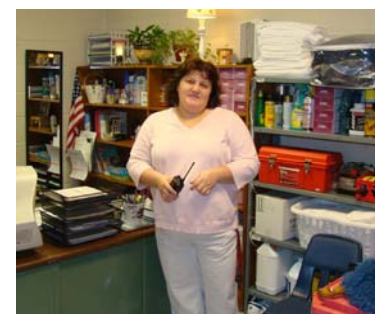
students at Veterans also had a career project to do. Every student at Veterans chose a career and researched everything about that career from the training and school education required to the yearly salary of that career. The students chose to present their projects on PowerPoints and beautifully decorated attractive posters. These projects are displayed proudly all over our school. This year's may have been the busiest career week Veterans has ever had.



By Savannah Tappin and Alaysia McKenzie

## Keeping Clean at Veterans

Have you ever wondered how Veterans stays so spic-and-span? At Veterans, eight diligent custodians work very hard to keep the school clean. Their work is not easy; they do a variety of tasks like cleaning the restrooms, keeping the cafeteria clean, cutting the grass, cleaning outdoors, waxing floors, making small repairs, and much more. The Generals 360 had a chance to interview the head custodian, Mrs. Zina Cheban. Mrs. Zina has been the head custodian at Veterans since 2004. She moved to the United States from Moldova, looking for a job in 1993, after Moldova's economy dropped. She is responsible for overlooking her fellow custodial staff and keeping the school clean. Mrs. Zina enjoys her job because she likes to clean. The custodial staff asks that the students do their share of keeping Veterans clean by picking up paper off the floor.



Ms. Zina, pictured here in her office, stays on top of all of her tasks by communicating with a

By Tiffani Kaage and Kaylin Johnson