

MAY 2011

GENERALS 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

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Once On This Island

"Once On This Island is a mythical folktale set in the French Antilles." Those were the opening words of the first play in many years performed at Veterans, which occurred at the Title 1 parent meeting in the Veterans' cafeteria. The play was performed on March 24. The sixth and seventh grade chorus students worked many hard hours, and it showed in their performance. The setting, the costumes and all of the props were created by the students. The lead roles were played by Bethany Hicks and Emma Golden. The show was only about 15 minutes long, but it told a great story. Thanks to Mr. Miller, Mr. Peek and all of the Veterans chorus students, the play turned out to be an amazing success!

By Emma Golden



Career Day

Parents and other members of the community met at Veterans on April 30, 2011, for the annual career day. Police men, chemists, and others gathered to explain their careers to all the students. Many students have a hard time deciding their careers or choices in life. Sgt. Williams, a police officer who visited team 8 Blue says, "Be happy when going to work; you should want to run there every morning." When choosing a career, students should know how important it is to have the education needed. Dr. Jim Brawn, a chemist, says math is important for his career. Some students knew what they wanted to do but others didn't. This day helped them to broaden their horizon of choosing a career.

By Dora Flynn and Kennisa Ragland

Fundraiser Fun!

Veterans' teachers understand that regular school days can get boring and a long day of learning is pretty tiring for students. Occasionally, they try to set up fun activities for their students to give them a break from the regular daily routine. Not only is this good for the students, but also for the school as a whole. Coach Kiesel and Coach Sammons, with help from other Veterans' connections teachers, set up fun events like dodge ball tournaments and 5v5 basketball tournaments to raise needed funds for the connections department. Some of the items bought with this money are the new P.E. equipment, including the ping-pong table and corn toss. For technology, Mr. Hartman bought a pre-made marble maze. Students will use these mazes as examples before building cardboard mazes of their own. Mrs. Esguerra used her money to purchase an external hard drive to aid in her teaching. As for Mrs. Mortimer, she provided a breakfast for the yearbook staff. She also plans to use some of that money to buy art supplies for next year. These are just a few examples of all the things teachers were able to purchase with the money. All the new equipment helps make the connections classes more efficient and fun.



By Taylor Lewis and Baylee Friedman

Editorial On the CRCT

Students at Veterans Memorial Middle School are elated to be finished with the CRCT. Many have been working hard all year long, and the results of the Criterion Referenced Competency Test are where the hard work will show. Although there were a variety of opinions on the CRCT, most of the students surveyed felt they did pretty well. "I thought the CRCT was a lot harder than last year, but I learned a lot," says sixth grade student Taylor Carter. However, eighth grade student Kanai DeBerry says, "I feel like we didn't learn as much this year as we did last year, but this year's CRCT was much easier and I didn't struggle nearly as much." Those who slacked off will have to face consequences fitting their lack of effort. Many either don't realize or don't care how important a good education is and therefore students focus on the wrong things while at school and neglect their assignments. Every decision that students make today affects tomorrow, whether for the best or the worst. The remedial classes and retention that slackers will experience could have been easily avoided with effort. However, the hard working students can expect a high score on the CRCT that will look great going into next year. Perhaps these dedicated students will positively influence their not-so motivated peers to take school seriously and redeem themselves for the next school year.

By Elise McDonald



Buddy Bracelets

Mr. Johnson's World Cultures Club has been working hard to help Japan after its recent disaster. The enrichment class came up with the idea to raise funds by selling personalized buddy bracelets and necklaces to students at Veterans. The bracelets were one dollar and the necklaces

were two dollars. The club's goal was to raise three hundred and fifty dollars, but they only raised one hundred and forty dollars. Even though they were short of their goal, any amount of money helps and they are proud to be able to help Japan. The World Cultures Club wants to thank everybody who helped them fundraise for Japan.



By Jordyn White and Baylee Friedman

Off to D.C!

On April 1, 2011, seventh and eighth grade students at Veterans Memorial Middle School went on the annual trip to the country's capital, Washington, D.C. A total of thirty-four students traveled by bus, accompanied by five chaperones: Ms. Dunn, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. Mansfield, Ms. Braswell and Mr. Helm. Early on Saturday, April 2, the group headed to Mount Vernon, President Washington's home. Over the course of the next four days, the crew toured the Smithsonian Museum and Holocaust Museum. They also visited various memorials such as, the Lincoln, Jefferson, FDR, and Iwo Jima memorials. Other jaunts of the trip were Arlington National Cemetery, home to all of the lost war soldiers. While looking over thousands of gravestones, eighth grader Taylor Evans says that she's very thankful that we had people to fight for our country. While at our country's most famous cemetery, four students, Olivia Arnold, Morgan Frank, TJ McCartha, and Ashton Sims participated in the wreath laying



Veterans students honor our country by laying a wreath.



ceremony. They received the honorable opportunity to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Other sites visited on the trip included the infamous Gettysburg, where the gang experienced the battlefield where America's soldiers fought decades ago. While at Gettysburg, a hike was taken to the highest and lowest point of the grounds. Overall, the students who attended the trip thought it was a great experience, and, they wish they could go all over again. Mrs. Dunn had a wonderful time, and is ready for next year's adventure!

By Kya Walker and Hailey Garner

Victorious Special Education Students

On May 2-4, Ms. Garvin's and Ms. Jackson's students spent their days at Sharp Stadium, competing in a wide variety of events. Special Olympics is held all year long, but the culminating event was in May. The events for the Special Olympics have varied all year long, but the final competition of the school year was track and field, which included running/standing long jump, softball throw, tennis throw, wheelchair races, walker races, and 50, 100 and 200 yard dashes. Every student wins a medal at the competition because everyone who tries is a winner in their eyes. The Special Olympics is the highlight of the students' year. It lets them know they can do anything and be successful at it.



The special education students started making a banner for the event in September 2010, worked on it all year, and just finished the banner two weeks ago. They won first place in the banner competition. They usually come in second place, so this was a victory for the students, including the teachers. Also, Veterans student, TJ Gather, sang the National Anthem at the beginning of the games. Coach Roach also came out to the Olympics to support the Veterans students. Coach Roberts, an eighth grade science teacher at Veterans, grilled six hundred hotdogs for all the participants. Mrs. Garvin said, "It was nice of them to do that, because it shows they care about the students."

By Jordyn White and Kevin Singh

Dialog in the Dark

Officer McCoy took six girls on a trip to Atlanta, Georgia, to experience the well known program called Dialog in the Dark. The event took place in Atlantic Station on May 14, 2011. The young women who participated in this trip include Taylor Evans, Marquita Gaither, Natalie Dyer, Zakiyyah Mashburn, Alexis Jacobs, and Aleyia Anderson. Officer McCoy's daughter also attended. Dialog in the Dark is designed to awaken senses, and challenge visitors to "see" in non-visual ways. Taylor Evans says, "Dialog in the Dark was a fun experience, and it taught me that its not easy being blind, and that other senses can be used to "see." The most memorable part of the adventure to her, was her tour guide, who was also blind. Many were touched by his story. Dialog in the Dark is a very inspirational program, and it strives to break stereotypes and promote respect and tolerance towards the blind.



By Kya Walker



Veterans Spotlight: PTO



During Teacher Appreciation Week, the PTO members provided delicious lunches for teachers. Above, PTO president Michele Beazley and Tammy Palomino serve lunch to staff members.

This year, faculty and students received extra support from a group of parents led by Mrs. Michelle Beazley, this year's PTO president. Being president is at the same time demanding, but rewarding. Her job as president involves organizing PTO meetings, organizing fundraisers, organizing volunteers, and communicating with members. Veterans' Principal, Mr. Peek, encouraged her to run for the office. Although, the difficult part of Ms. Beazley's job is asking people to volunteer and become sponsors, she enjoys interacting with parents and teachers. She says the four things the next PTO president needs to have are communication skills, love for the school, organizational skills, and an appreciation for the teachers and parents. The community sponsors, who are also a big part of the PTO, are Kroger, Chick-Fil-A, Blimpie, Waffle House, Subway, World of Wings, Bruster's, and Café Milano.

Finally, she wanted thank all of the PTO members for making Teacher Appreciation Week possible and for the hard work all year long.

By Kevin Singh and Kennisa Ragland

Peer Helpers

Seldom does Veterans acknowledge the hard work that the peer helpers do. Now that this year is coming to a close, the group is busier than ever. The peer helpers' schedule for May was jammed packed with activities from fifth grade orientation on May 6, to running the sixth grade day camp in July. At the orientation, two students spoke about topics and tips on going to middle school. Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Alston assisted the boys and girls all year with training, peer mediations, and peer tutoring. Eighth grade peer helper David Croone says, "Being a peer helper allowed me to gain leadership skills and confidence." The peer helpers at Veterans are definitely model students as most of them are Six Star Generals, have outstanding behavior, and even better attitudes. They are commended for their hard work in being the leaders of Veterans Memorial Middle School. By Kya Walker



The peer helpers helped host the fifth graders' visit to Veterans.

End of the Year Activities

As the 2010-2011 school year ends, many events have been planned for the students of Veterans. Field trips, activities and celebrations filled the last few weeks before the last day of school, May 26. A few activities are also planned for days during the summer.

- May 10 – Athletic Awards Night 6:30p.m.: VMMS athletes were recognized for their contribution to school sports.
- May 12 and 13 – Six-Star Generals Go To Oak Hill: Selected Six-Star Generals went to Oak Hill Elementary to help with Field Day.
- May 12 – Band and Chorus Concert: Students' final performance was at 7:00 p.m. in the Veterans gym.
- May 13 – Seventh Grade Field Day: Seventh graders enjoyed a day of fun activities out on the field behind the school.
- May 17 – Sixth Grade Field Day: Sixth graders enjoyed their day of cool activities out on the back field.
- May 19 – Honors Night 6:30p.m.: Students received awards of excellence from their academic and connections teachers for their performance throughout the school year.
- May 20 – Eighth Grade Picnic: Eighth Grade enjoyed their version of a Field Day hosted by the eighth grade teachers.
- May 21 – Eighth Grade Dance: Eighth grade students dressed in their best party clothes and enjoyed themselves from 6:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. in the cafeteria, which was all decked out in balloons and streamers.
- May 26 – Honors Day: Students will receive awards of excellence for their performance and club participation throughout the year.
- May 26 – Last Day of School: Summer starts.
- June 8 (Wednesday) – 8-Red Six Flags Trip: Team 8-Red celebrates the success of their students at Six Flags.
- July 28 & 29 - Summer Bridging Program: For a preview of what to expect, graduating eighth grade students can go to their assigned high schools from 9:00a.m – 3:00p.m. Students familiarize themselves with their new schools and will be able to meet some of their future teachers. Lunch will be provided. Paper work for this event can be received from homeroom teachers.

By Michael Pitts and Kanai DeBerry

Back in Action



The General's track and field team is back in action. On Friday, April 15, the girls won second place at the Newton County meet. Although the boys placed third, the team finished strong and proud. The next meet (the New Rock Track Meet) on Friday, April 28, officially marked the end of the track and field season. During each practice, the Generals work their hardest to fulfill their goal of winning. Coach Bigby, the boys' coach, and Coach Byrd, the girls' coach, both put time and effort into the team and helped them to be prepared for each meet. With such a solid foundation, next year they should have many victories ahead of them.

By Mikayla Newton

2011-2012 Cheer Generals

Introducing, the 2011-2012 Cheer Generals! Mrs. Mansfield held tryouts on April 25-28, to admit girls who exhibit all-around excellence to next year's cheerleading team. A few requirements for making the squad were exceptional grades and behavior, strong tumbling skills, and classic General spirit! Upcoming seventh and eighth grade girls were permitted to tryout, and they learned a dance, a cheer, and a sideline at practice, and they all aced it! The team was announced on Friday, April 29. The new cheerleaders include Zariah Covington, Brooke Davis, Kaitlyn Doering, Jenelle Fahie, Baylee Friedman, Alexis Johnson, Arianna Holmes, Allison Layfield, Hallie Mayo, Azari Parker, Brittani Pruitt, Lacie Robinson, McKenzie Rowland, Morgan Sanders, Katelyn Srader, Peyton Stephens, Chanelle Valentine, Ansleigh White, and Rachel Wilder. Mrs. Mansfield hopes that everyone on the team will have tumbling skills, and raise enough money for much needed uniforms. She is also looking forward to bringing home first place trophies. As soon as the new team was announced, the girls jumped right into community service and performances. The list of events goes on and on, from car washes and Coke fundraisers, to hosting the eighth grade dance and helping out with Newton County's Special Olympics. Over the two month summer, the girls will raise money selling The World's Finest Chocolate, and making tie-dye shirts at the square. They will also participate in annual events such as the two cheer camps, a cookout and a Six Flags trip. Obviously, the 2011 Cheer Generals have full plates, but as always, no one's complaining!

By Kya Walker and Mikayla New-

Getting Ready for Next Year!

Fifth grade students from elementary schools came to Veterans on May 6 to become familiar with the school and discover what to expect when they enter middle school in August. They learned that all middle schools are very different from the elementary schools. The speakers explained how the students would be changing classes, and using lockers to store books. They learned about the different connections classes and what the teachers expect out of their students.

After being welcomed to Veterans by the principal, Mr. Peek, several sixth grade teachers and connections teachers spoke to the students about different aspects of sixth grade. The fifth grade students also enjoyed a performance by the Veterans Band and the Gospel Chorus and then watched one of the first performances of next year's Veterans' Cheerleading squad. After that, the students went on a tour of the school, led by the peer helpers. They saw where their classes would be next year. The students left Veterans knowing what to look forward to next year.

By Abby Vanderwolf and Michael Pitts



G.E.M.S

This year, the G.E.M.S (Girls Engaged in Meaningful Service) club has worked very hard in raising money for various events. One of the most unique projects this year was the walk for the African Water Crisis. G.E.M.S. raised money selling lollipops and provided lunch for all of the teachers to show their appreciation. The girls just finished their last two events of the year, which was going to the Varsity and the World of Coke and also volunteering at the Special Olympics. G.E.M.S got the idea for all of these special projects by remembering other projects they did from years before. G.E.M.S. would meet once a month on Wednesdays, and occasionally when they have special projects. G.E.M.S. has had a very productive year here at Veterans and wants to do so much more next year.

By Kayrie Oliver and Kaitlyn Doering

Fashion Show

For the first time ever, VMMS students in Mrs. Lassiter's enrichment class held a fashion show to raise money for Relay for Life. Students in Mrs. Lassiter's class, wanted more activities for girls and came up with the idea of a fashion show. The idea was approved by Mr. Peek, the principal, and tryouts were held, outfits were decided on, and models were chosen. There were a total of four categories: Business, Sporty, Unique, and Summertime, in which all four designers had models to represent one of each. The Fashion Show itself was held on April 29, and at the conclusion of show, awards were presented to whoever had the best outfit for each category and an overall best designer. It was a great opportunity for Veterans girls to shine, and hopefully will become a yearly event for the school.



From left to right: Winning participants Angelique Dang, Cheyenne Rodney, Kyla Wardally, Akua Kwiyana (best overall designer), and Kaori Jackson.

By Abby Vanderwolf and Giannia Vasquez



Above: Students at Veterans buy chicken biscuits for \$2.50 every other Tuesday.



Above: The Literacy Competition contestants show their award for their play, "Baking A Cake."



Left: Simon Ramos comes to Veterans to tell the students about his life as a veteran.

Below: Students in Broadcasting and Technology Enrichment work hard to present the morning announcements.



Above: Ashly Hodges blows up a balloon while engaged with class.



Below: The football team collaborates with each other to produce the game winning play.



Left: Veterans chose seventh grade students to plant flowers around the new solar panel .



Year in Pictures
2010-2011



Above: Members of the Chess Club put their wits together to play a interesting game.