

Generals 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

The End of an Era



The team presents Coach Roberts with a commemorative whistle after his last game.

With the close of the 2011 season in November, Veterans football will never be the same. Head coach Cliff Roberts is stepping down after many years of leading the Generals on the gridiron. His strong leadership brought out the best in every player, both on and off the field and he will be sorely missed. To show their appreciation, the parents and players awarded Coach Roberts with a gift after the last game of the season.

This season was rough for the Generals, but it ended on a high note with a victory over the Indian Creek Panthers. The game on November 9 was played at home to a full crowd and the win was achieved with a strong



running game by the players. The team's record this season was 2 wins and 4 losses but the players worked hard at every game and gave it their all. The coaching staff never lost its optimism and the team had some solid performances throughout the season even though the record did not reflect it. Next year the Generals will anticipate the coming a new coach and a new chance at winning the championship.

By Michael Gray and LeKendrick Williams

GEMS Are Giving Back

GEMS are back. GEMS, which stands for Girls Engaged in Meaningful Services, is a club for girls who want to help their community. GEMS was started by Ms. Whitney Jackson and Mrs. Jessica Norsworthy five years ago, with the intention of providing an opportunity for girls at Veterans to give back to the community. This year Ms. Jackson is the head sponsor of the GEMS club. When the Generals 360 Staff asked Ms. Jackson what GEMS meant to her, she said, "It is an opportunity to give back. I went to school in Newton County where I learned leadership skills, and it is an opportunity for me to model servant leadership for my students."



One of the most active clubs in the school, its members will be doing new activities as well as things they have participated in years before. So far this year they have helped at Special Olympics, joined with the cheerleaders for skate night fundraiser, and went on a trip to West Newton to perform a skit and make pumpkins for the kindergarteners. They raised funds by selling lollipops in the mornings and hosted an accessory party called Thirty One to help fund their events.

Another charity fundraiser, called Pennies for Patients, was also sponsored by GEMS. In the coming months, they will provide assistance to a soup kitchen with a food drive as well as many other activities. So keep a lookout for GEMS.

By Anjahlia Dooley and Kaiya Samuel



The Softball Season Comes to an End



The Lady Generals softball team had quite a season this year. Although their final record of 2 and 0 did not reflect it, the girls played well and Coach Beth Bowman felt they were a great group of girls to work with and was sad to see the season end. The players were always up-beat and never let losing a game get in the way of just having fun on the field. The girls were disappointed to see the season end in such a short amount of time, but they had a lot of fun being with friends and enjoying a great sport that they all love to play. Even though the season is over, Coach Bowman would encourage everyone to help the team complete the construction their home field by purchasing Chick-fil-A biscuits every Thursday.

By Alyssa Ellis

Competition Wrap-Up

Veterans' Cheer Generals have come a long way this year. With little experience, but a great deal of heart, the girls needed a lot of practice. Every day after school and cheering at Veterans' football games gave them plenty of practice to cheer at competitions. Coach Mansfield says "The girls try their hardest and give it their all. They put all their problems aside anytime I am around. At competitions, football games, or even practice, they always put on a smile and try their hardest with every stunt or cheer they do. I think they have really learned to truly understand the hard work and dedication it takes to cheer." With two injuries during the season, it was difficult to keep the girls in the same spot in the routine all the time. They had to learn every position in case yet another girl was injured. "I knew you couldn't just take your girls for granted that they'll be there every day. When Hallie got hurt, my motherly instincts came out of me and I tried my best to protect all the other girls from getting hurt like that," says Coach Mansfield. For their last competition at Loganville High School, they proudly placed second. The Cheer Generals love doing what they do. The stunts, the cheers, or even just keeping the crowd pumped up is always a challenge and they love every part of it. They love the feeling of hearing "Veterans Memorial Middle School" called to come and get a trophy when they win an event. They certainly are going to miss cheering, at least until next year.



By Alyssa Ellis and Deanna Griffin

Special Olympics



Almost every month, students at Veterans participate in Special Olympics. Special Olympics are athletic events held worldwide, that are modified for students who have a special intellectual or physical need. These events have been around since the nineteen fifties. Mrs. Bonnie Garvin says she and Ms. Shontelle Jackson take their kids to Special Olympics "because it's important to be successful, and find something they are good at," says Mrs. Garvin. There are many events at the Special Olympics with a wide range of skills so that every special needs child can compete. Some of the events include basketball, bowling, tennis, roller skating, softball, track and field, soccer, and sometimes even horseback riding! Veterans has already showed their skills at some recent Special Olympics, and Veterans is proud of the success of their Special Olympians.

By Courtney Coon and Kayla Benjamin

Back to the 80's

The fall music season at Veterans' started with a swing! The Veterans' Fall Concert was held in the cafeteria on October 13, and it was an amazing success. The theme was 80's, as were all of the songs, which included Celebration, Eye of the Tiger, True Colors, Girls Just Want To Have Fun, That's What Friends Are For, 9 to 5, and We Are The World. The seventh and eighth students performed these same songs during their field trip on November 3 at the Benton House, a senior center, followed by a trip to Stevie B's. Special thanks to Mr. Miller, Veterans' chorus teacher, who organized the events. Thanks should also go to Mr. Peek for his continued support of the program.



By Emma Golden





Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Ellis

Anyone who has had Mrs. Ellis as their teacher can testify to the wonderful learning experience she brings. Mrs. Kellen Ellis has been teaching for eight years, but only three years at Veterans. One of her former students, Bryce Willis states, "She made science fun for me and easier to understand. She's no average science teacher; in her class we just don't do book work. We did experiments and labs all the time. She's the best science teacher I have ever had!" Mrs. Ellis grew up in Decatur, Georgia. She was inspired by her mom and her love of kids to become a teacher. Her quest to become this amazing teacher began at the University of West Georgia and continued at Governor State University in Colorado. She feels her job as a teacher is a calling from God, and to be able to touch the lives of students makes her job worthwhile. Every year Mrs. Ellis teaches at Veterans, she makes more and more memories she will always treasure. One of her favorite quotes is, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."



By Courtney Coon and Ebony Wilson

Capturing the Year in Pictures

Yearbooks are one of those things that no one thinks about until the end of the year, and then everyone wants one. There is one group of students who begin thinking about it in August and continue through February, when the last page is sent to the publisher. A group of seventh and eighth grade students are responsible for designing the pages of the yearbook. These students are in the Publishing Enrichment class and Mrs. Christy Mortimer, the art teacher, heads up this group. Students in the Publishing Enrichment class use software called "hijbook.com" where they can design their pages, and insert the pictures, and text that goes in it. In the end, these students will be proud of the results of their hard work - a full color publication brimming with pictures and stories recording their year at Veterans. So don't wait until May and take a chance that all the yearbooks will be sold out. Contact Mrs. Mortimer to purchase one now.



By Kayrie Oliver and Trent Whitmire

Happy Thanksgiving From the Generals 360 Staff!

BETA Club Induction

Membership to BETA club is offered to students who have reached the goal of academic success and have exhibited good character and over forty students at Veterans were honored recently for this achievement. The very first BETA club induction ceremony at Veterans' was held on November 2, 2011, in the cafeteria at 6:00p.m. Forty students were inducted at the ceremony and four more transferred to the club from other schools. Working hard to establish the new chapter at Veterans are the sponsors, Mrs. Kellen Ellis and Mrs. Stacey Moran. The student officers are Allyson Bentley, who is serving as president with Michael Gray, the vice president. Tyler Williams is the club secretary and Baylee Gunnells is treasurer.



BETA club, which was formed in 1934, is the country's largest educational youth group. Veterans' BETA members are excited to get the year started with meetings every Thursday at 7:45 a.m. until the winter break, and every first Thursday of every month after that. Their first activity will be to collect gifts for children through Toys for Tots during November and December. BETA Club is looking forward to a successful year full of activities.

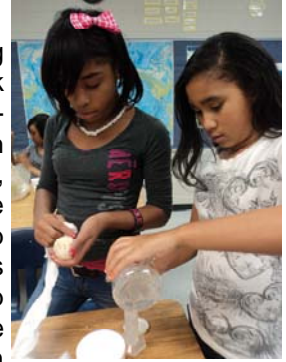
By Hannah Hinton and Gavin Norman





Bouncing Eggs?

Mrs. Henderson's seventh grade Quest class has been busy with a very interesting experiment. Everyone knows that Mrs. Henderson never teaches a lesson out of the book when she can allow her class to experience the content in a real-life context. The class recently performed an experiment to learn first-hand about osmosis by seeing it happen with something as simple as an egg. The class brought in supplies like eggs, jars, corn syrup, and vinegar. The students were paired in groups of two and worked together to complete the experiment. Over the course of several days, they observed vinegar and corn syrup passing through the hard shell of an egg. The egg grew larger, then smaller, then lost its shell altogether, leaving only the egg's membrane and the inside of the egg. The last step was to put the egg in water and when they returned on the last day, the egg could bounce like a ball. What a fun way to learn about osmosis! By Natalie Carter and Hannah Hinton



Veterans Excited About Veterans!

This year, Veteran's Day was unusual for two reasons. The first is that it was the 100th anniversary of the end of World War II. The second reason is because the date was November 11, 2011, or, 11-11-11. This only occurs every 100 years. Veterans Memorial Middle School started the holiday by broadcasting over the intercom the names of all teachers at Veterans who have served in the armed services. Throughout the day, in the Media Center, U.S. veterans gave a presentation to students informing them of all the sacrifices United States service men have made for the cause of freedom. The principal of Veterans, Mr. James Peek, was a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy and Mr. Michael Bigby, a sixth grade teacher, was a Captain of the U.S. Army. Both of these faculty members presented their experiences to the students. Two visitors also spoke to the students. Mr. Alan Bigby, who is Mr. Bigby's son, is a sergeant in the U.S. Army and is currently a veteran of Afghanistan in the Georgia National Guard. Staff Sergeant Jeff Simmons, who is a recruiter on active duty in the U.S. Army spoke to the kids too. Also to honor veterans, students submitted names of veterans in their family and at a future date, a link to this list will be on Veterans Memorial Middle School's website .



By Carley Lively



Monster Ball - Little Red Riding Hood, Pocahontas, Vampires, and many more colorful and creative characters were seen at the Veterans cafeteria on the afternoon of October 27. The students really outdid themselves during the first annual Monster Ball, which was sponsored by the cheerleaders. The cost to get in was \$5, and it was well worth the money. The students enjoyed a variety of activities including, music, dancing, and even a spooky costume contest. The Monster Ball was a hit, and students can't wait until next year! By Jahlil Edwards and Natalie Carter



Letters to Soldiers

Students at Veterans recently wrote letters to soldiers in service. These letters told the soldiers how thankful everyone is for their fighting for freedom. Students from every grade wrote a total of 327 letters, adding to the national number of 405,925. Each soldier will receive a letter expressing how thankful everyone is for another year of freedom and protection.

By Jahlil Edwards and Michael Gray