

VETERANS  
MEMORIAL  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

# GENERALS 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

October 2008

## Important Dates

**October 1**  
**Football @ Home**  
**vs. Clements**

**October 2**  
**End of**  
**First Nine Weeks**

**October 2-4**  
**NewRock Softball**  
**Tournament**

**October 3**  
**Student Holiday**

**October 6-10**  
**Fall Break**

**October 13**  
**Report Cards Issued**

**October 18**  
**Football @ Sharp Sta-**  
**dium vs. Indian Creek**

**October 23**  
**Beginning of**  
**Second Nine Weeks**

**October 31**  
**Student of the Month**  
**Ceremony**

## Bead For Life

Students at Veterans are helping people in Africa through Bead For Life, an organization that markets jewelry made by people in Uganda from recycled magazine paper. After students in Family and Consumer Science and Art viewed a video about Bead for Life, Mrs.



Lori Worman, the FCS teacher, thought that this would be a great project for her students and Mrs. Mortimer's art students. FCS students made thumbprints representing the number of children who die every year due to starvation, and art students made beads from magazine paper like the Ugandan women make. The video showed the students the impact Bead for Life makes on the families and the communities in Uganda. Mrs. Worman says, "We, the U.S., have no idea what it's like to live in severe poverty. There are 29,000 children in the world who die

everyday from starvation and hunger related illnesses. Parents try their best to feed their families and take care of them, but the resources aren't there." Over half of the money from

jewelry sales goes to the people in Uganda for their bead-making efforts; other profits go toward community projects like health-care and schools. Generals 360 staff asked Mrs. Worman how it makes her feel to know that lives are saved everyday because of the beads the women are making, and she gave them one of her favorite quotes by Helen Keller, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do." The beaded jewelry is on sale, and for more information, contact Mrs. Worman.

By Nakea Clark



## Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Helm

One of Veterans' well-loved teachers is Mr. "Buck" Helm, a sixth grade math teacher on the Yellow Team. Students say they like him because he makes learning easy by telling funny stories that keep students' attention. He is also an assistant coach for the Veterans softball team. He says that it might sound a bit cliché, but the best thing about coaching softball is watching the team grow stronger. He is a big sports fan, and especially loves to root for the University of Georgia. Mr. Helm says one of the most interesting parts of his



job is observing the students' different clothing styles. He says that as a teacher, he would like to work on more consistency in his teaching methods. His pet peeves are gum chewing, standing in class, and talking out of turn.

Mr. Helm's dad gave him the unusual nickname "Buck" when he was born on February 17, 1982. He has lived in Newton County his whole life. He was inspired to become a middle school teacher after seeing his mother work at Cousins for thirty years. He went to Shorter College in Rome, Georgia where he earned his Business Administration Degree and is currently taking courses at Grand Canyon College, earning his Secondary Teaching Degree and his Masters Degree. In Mr. Helm's spare time, he likes to play with his daughter or be outdoors. He has a wife named Kerri and his thirteen month-old daughter's name is Lily. In his second year teaching and coaching at Veterans, he's a valuable part of the school.

By Kimberly League and Ian Elliott

By Kimberly League and Ian Elliott

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★ **Veterans Memorial** ★  
★ **Middle School** ★  
★ 13357 Brown Bridge ★  
★ Road ★  
★ Covington, GA 30016 ★  
★ 770-385-6893 ★  
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# Generals Sports



## CHEER GENERALS ROCK THE HOUSE!

The cheerleaders have been working hard this year, cheering both at football games and at competition. They participated in their first competition on September 13 and were pleased to come in third place. Then at the Bulldog Invitational Competition at Morgan County High School, they came home with a first place trophy, the first ever for the Cheer Generals. Coach Scott and the cheerleaders were proud to have earned that honor.

Recently, Generals 360 staff spoke with some of the cheerleaders. Jordan Korn says "I think competition went really well because we have new stuff. The crowd at competition is so big and because they are concentrated on the cheerleaders and not the football game, it is more fun." Tierra Gray says that she thinks the squad will only get better and better as they perfect their stunts.  
By Crystal Garner and Haley Sumpter

## Softball Season is H-O-T!

The softball season at Veterans is going great! The Generals 360 Staff interviewed one of the coaching assistants, Coach "Buck" Helms, and asked him some questions about how he felt to be coaching the team. He says, "It feels great; the girls on the team are doing their best. The first time we won a game I had confidence that we are a strong team, because with the hard work we have been putting into winning, we were strong." He says the toughest game so far was against Davis. Veterans' players started down, but worked hard, tying and finally winning. "The girls never stopped," he says. The 360 Staff also asked a player, Kimberly League, about how they warmed up before the game, she said, "We run, throw, and stretch. You know, basically what we need to do to win the game".



By Christina Dixon and Nakea Clark

## The Generals Football Update

The Generals' football season is off to a great start. No other team scored against the Generals during either of the first two games. The Generals beat Memorial 24-0 and Davis Middle School 44-0. Even though the Generals won against Conyers Middle School, everyone was a little disappointed that their shut-out streak was broken.



The Generals' defense is what keeps the game in their favor. The Generals 360 staff recently asked assistant coach Mr. Roberts a few questions. He says that this year the team is bigger, stronger, and faster. He is looking forward to playing Indian Creek and thinks that Cousins is going to be a hard team to beat. Mr. Roberts's goal is to get more familiar with the game and work more with the kids. Mr. Roberts says, "I expect us to be in the championships and it doesn't matter who



we play." Come out and support Generals Football!

By Derrick Felix and Duronte Carter

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\* 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! \*  
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### What's Cooking at Veterans

This month, the Generals 360 is giving the "scoop" on what's cooking in the cafeteria. Veterans has fifteen ladies work who hard every day to feed student and faculty at Veterans. These ladies serve about one thousand, seven hundred meals a day. Added up, that's about 306,000 meals every year! That's a lot of food to prepare. Cleaning up is a big job too. They are also responsible for collecting money and recording transactions on their computer system. The ladies say that the job can get really stressful, but they always find the time to make some fun by joking with each other and "cutting up". Readers might be surprised to find that many



of the meals prepared in the cafeteria are made from scratch. Ms. Sande Palecek is the School Nutrition Manager, and she is responsible for the smooth operation of the cafeteria. To clear up a myth about cafeteria workers, these ladies wanted to let readers know that they are not mean, but instead



they are actually kind, hard-working ladies. Veterans is lucky to have them working in the cafeteria. By Dante Pittmon and Justin Goodwin

### Picture Perfect

The 2008-2009 Yearbook Staff is already very busy, working hard to create this year's yearbook. The staff is composed of eighth grade students who were chosen by the sponsors Mrs. Mortimer, Coach Davis, and Mrs. Esguerra. The students on the committee, Sandra Aguilera, Kaylin Johnson, Hayley Hinton, Ciera Farr, Presley Sartor, and Noelle Turner, are each assigned pages in the yearbook which they complete by taking pictures and writing copy. After pages are completed by staff members, the sponsors proof them and make any needed changes. A new program called eDesign is being used to produce the yearbook. It is all designed on-line; the cover, sixteen color pages and the remaining black and white pages. The yearbook will be delivered during the last few weeks of school, in May. Mrs. Mortimer says if a student has a really good idea for a yearbook page, he or she may submit it to Mrs. Mortimer or Coach Davis. Parents can order the yearbook at [www.yearbookordercenter.com](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com). It should be noted that nameplates must be ordered before Christmas break.

By Dallas Esguerra and Noelle Turner

# October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Created by Dallas Esguera and Ciera Farr			1 Football Game Home (Clements) Softball Tournament	2 End of 1st Nine Weeks Softball Tournaments	3 Student Holiday Softball Tournament	4
5	6	7	← Fall Break →			11
12	13 Beginning of 2nd Nine Weeks	14	15	16	17	18 Football Game @ Indian Creek
19	20	21	22	23 Report Cards Issued	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Agenda Spotlight—Skipping

Students may think that not going to class is not really a serious problem, but skipping class is a major offense addressed on page thirty three of the student agenda. What is skipping? Skipping is defined as missing class without an excuse or leaving class without permission. What happens if a student skips a class? The parents are notified by an administrator, and a parent conference, detention, ISS, or Project Decision are all possible consequences determined at the discretion of the administrator. Leaving campus without signing out is also considered skipping and also has serious consequences. Any time a student skips class, the student receives a zero for all graded assignments. Students at Veterans should seriously consider all of the consequences when they are thinking about skipping.

By Andrea Broadwater and Summer Bratcher

## A Safe Ride for Veterans Students

Every day, Veterans' students ride buses to and from school and don't give it much thought. Some students don't seem to realize that riding on the bus involves some hazards, so James Peek, Veterans Memorial's assistant principal, decided to do a program to ensure students' safety on the bus. This was the first time for a middle school to have this program. This program took plenty of coordination with the county transportation department, to plan a good time to come and make the presentation. This also meant getting all of the grade levels on a schedule that would allow every student to participate in the program.

During the program, students viewed a video about bus safety and toured buses, while listening to a lecture by bus drivers. Thomas Day, one of the bus drivers in the Newton County District, hopes that the students will act more responsibly because of this program. Students learned that most of the problems that occur on the bus include excessive noise, eating when told not to, and not remaining seated. Some of the basic rules that are given by the bus driver are to go straight to an assigned seat, sit down, face the front of the bus, and use inside voices while talking to other students. "If everyone did that it would be a cakewalk," Day says. When children are disobeying these rules, it distracts the driver's attention, causing the driver to focus on what is going on inside of the bus instead of the road. Mr. Peek feels that it was necessary to have this presentation to make sure that students understand what is expected of them, to follow procedures and rules on the bus to ensure their safety. He believes the students really benefited from this program and that Veterans' students are safer because of it.



By Brandon Key and Toni Tompkins

## Fall Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences were held on September 11 and September 12. There were a total of 1,276 conferences. When conferences occur, many students and parents are nervous because they don't know what the teacher is going to say, but the teachers are not nervous. "Teachers like conferences because they can talk to their favorite students' parents and to get to address behavior issues with parents of students who are disruptive," says Ms. Kathryn Storey. This year Generals 360 staff members talked to many of the parents to find out how they think conferences went. Parents thought that the conferences went really well and that the teachers gave plenty of information about their children's grades and behavior. Many of the parents believe that there is nothing that Veterans' could do to make anything better, but some parents think that some things could be changed. Parking is difficult, and some parents would like more conferences. Overall, the principals, faculty and parents agree that the conferences were a complete success.

By Savannah Slater and Brandon Key



## Veterans Gets All Fired Up!

On September 2, as the sun set, students, parents, and faculty gathered on Veteran's property by the football field for a bonfire pep rally. The bonfire was sponsored by the parent/ teacher organization (PTO).



The bonfire kicked off with The National Anthem, performed by Alice McDonald, who did a great job. There were many speeches given that evening. Mr. Arena welcomed all the students and parents. Mr. Cher described what it takes to be a Six Star General and introduced Six Star Generals attending the rally. Bret Dunn, an eighth grade student, shared about the Principal's Advisory Committee and introduced members to the audience. Mr. Mistovitch, Veterans' former principal, talked about what it means to be a General and thanked Mr. Arena for being the great principal he is.

Hotdogs, chips, and drinks were sold at the event to raise money for the PTO. Raffle tickets were drawn and winners were awarded prizes. Information about the softball and football season was given, and athletes and coaches were introduced. The Cheer Generals performed several cheers. Faculty members introduced themselves. After all of the speeches, the bonfire was lit and soon grew large enough to cause spectators to back away. The pep rally was a great success!

By Tiffani Kaage and James Barnes

## Techno Generals

Mr. Hartman's advanced technology class is off to an awesome start. This year students in his class are fired up for technology. They are involved in several projects including Future City, the General Idea, and the Technology Student Association (T.S.A). T.S.A is a student association designed specifically for students who have a desire to learn and advance in technology. Every school in the nation has the opportunity to participate and this year, Veterans technology students attended a weekend CORE Conference on September 19-21. The Generals 360 staff interviewed KeeKee Jordan, Sergio Cruz, Bret Dunn and Mr. Hartman to find out what went on at the conference. The Generals 360 were surprised to hear that it was not all about technology but that it involved some physical and outdoor work too. During the conference, the Veterans team did all types of activities, rock-climbing, tight-ropeing obstacle courses and water games. They stayed in cabins at the F.C.C.L.A camp in Newton County.

In addition to T.S.A, Mr. Hartman's technology students have much more to do. They are participating Future City and are also working on a video production called The General Idea. Future City is a project in which students team up and design a futuristic city. This project takes a lot of time and hard work which is judged in the spring at a state-wide competition. Another Advanced Technology Class project is the General Idea. The General Idea is a video magazine production that is designed for students. It contains teacher interviews, club commercials, and covers other events happening around the school. It will be played over the school on the school network. Be on the lookout for all the great things happening in Mr. Hartman's Advanced Technology class.

By Noelle Turner and Toni Simmons



TSA officers Bret Dunn, KeeKee Jordan and Sergio Cruz prepare for the wall climb, a team building event at the CORE conference.

## Media Corner

The Media Center is brimming with activity. Ms. Coleman and Ms. Blackerby would like for students to know the basic rules that are enforced in the media center.

- A student must have a signed pass in their agenda to enter the Media Center unless they are visiting with their class. While in the Media Center, students must use soft voices. Ms. Coleman says, "If the music playing can't be heard, students are too loud."
- No gum or candy is allowed, and students need to use care when reading books to keep the books in good condition.
- A maximum of two books may be checked out for two weeks at a time. The overdue fee is five cents per day.
- Accelerated Reader books are identified by a blue label, which gives the reading level and number of points that can be earned.
- Media Center hours are 8:00—3:30, unless it is closed for special events.



By Summer Bratcher and Tori Worman