

SEPTEMBER 2010

GENERALS 360

ALL AROUND INFORMATION

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Curriculum Night at Veterans

Curriculum Night at Veterans had a huge turnout this year. On Thursday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, parents received information concerning Title One, band, the CRCT, tutoring, and academics. The connections teachers were in the gym, and the all academic teachers were located on various halls. Parents were informed about their children's grades, tutoring, and connections. The information assembly had breakout sessions for each grade level. Veterans was also offering school spirit wear and Mrs. Worman was selling her delicious homemade cookies.

By Kya Walker and Kennisa Ragland



Media Specialist Mrs. Coleman, informs parents about the Media Center.



Amazing Artists

Every year, the Newton County Board Office asks art teachers from Newton County Schools to display artwork from their schools. Each month, artwork is displayed from a different school. In August, the County Office asked Ms. Mortimer, the Veterans art teacher, to display some artwork from her students. She chose forty pieces from the talented students of Veterans for Newton County citizens to enjoy.

By Hailey Garner and Giannia Vasquez

Mr. Peek Is Excited About the New School Year!

Many students, teachers, and faculty members at Veterans Memorial Middle School remember Mr. James Peek as the assistant principal in past years. Mr. Peek has been at Veterans for eight years, from 2002-2010. It is now his second year as principal, and hopefully for many years to come. Generals 360 staff members recently met with Mr. Peek to get his thoughts on the new year. To begin with, Mr. Peek feels it is important to get the parents involved by planning more activities, including chorus concerts, band concerts and after school activities, such as clubs and sports. Mr. Peek believes that academically, it is important for students to be acclimated to their surroundings, continually aware of everything. For instance, the quicker the students can learn their schedule, the more chance they will have at exceeding academically. Mr. Peek says, "The biggest change this year is the schedule. Veterans went from a rotating schedule to a permanent schedule." He says that students will also take more district-wide assessments.

Mr. Peek enjoys having the ability to have oversight over student learning. He feels the teachers are trained to deliver instructions and make a huge impact on each individual student's life. As Mr. Peek always says, "Excellence is a journey, not a destination."

By Baylee Friedman and Jordyn White



GENERALS SPORTS

Ready to Show Some Spirit!

After a long summer practicing at cheer camp, the Cheer Generals are back and ready to show some true school spirit. Although tryouts at the end of last year were spur-of-the moment, the cheerleaders didn't let that get them down. Mrs. Mansfield, Veterans cheerleading coach of three years, remarks, "I was devastated when I heard that middle school sports were being cancelled, because cheerleading is a part of my life." That goes to show just how much she cares about the squad and about Veterans. The girls also had fundraisers over the summer break. They sold doughnuts, had a community yard sale, bagged groceries for bucks at the neighborhood Kroger, and sponsored the Back-to-School dance on August 19. Not only did the cheerleader's work this summer, they had fun too! There was a cookout at the coach's house, and they also attended Six Flags over GA.



Eighth grader Gabby Kiner says what she likes best about being on the cheer team is "Feeling part of something special." This is the smallest squad Veterans has had with only sixteen girls on the competition squad, and seventeen on the football squad. The first

competition is September 18 in Morgan County. The cheerleaders encourage everyone at Veterans to come and support their team at competition!

By Kya Walker and Abby Vanderwolf

Lady Generals, Batter Up!

With a team of twenty girls, the Lady Generals Softball team is up and ready for action. Coach Neal Sammons and Coach Beth Bowman held tryouts August 6-7. With daily practice from 3:30 – 6:00, the Lady Generals were ready for their first game on August 18 against Davis Middle School. Although the Lady Generals have had a rough start with their August games, they currently have a 5-3 record.



With all the pressure on the field, a great deal is expected from a player when it's her turn at the plate. Eighth grade player Jordyn White says, "When I'm up to bat my mind is only set on hitting the ball." Coach Sammons says, "As long as we go out each day and play like we are capable of playing, we should be able to make a run. There are a lot of good teams out there and the other teams are capable of beating you. As long as we don't beat ourselves and just stay focused and composed we should do just fine." This year the Lady Generals' goal is simple: Get better each day, no matter what. If the Lady Generals can do this, it will be a successful season and the girls should be proud of themselves. So come out and support the Lady Generals!

By Dora Flynn

The Generals Get in the Game

"Consistency is the key to performing a great play," says Veterans' head football coach, Cliff Roberts. The Generals are back in action this season with two losses and one win. Coach Roberts



selected the new team back in August to try to reach their fifth executive New Rock League Championship. There are many qualities that the coach looks for as strives to pick a championship team. The thirty-seven players who made the team are working hard to carry on the tradition by impressing the coaches with their speed and agility. Assisting Coach Roberts are Buck Helms and Gary Mistovich. Although there is not a definite first string, there are three groups of boys that play in the order that they practice, which makes them work harder, according to Coach Roberts. The team this year is much younger, much faster and

can complete many plays. There is another difference in year's team compared to last year's; they are starting two seventh graders in middle defense. "Finish the drill," the coaches tell the players to motivate and encourage them to finish practice strong. In the end, with all of their hard work, the players are motivated to achieve the championship once again.

By Rebecca Merrell and Simeon

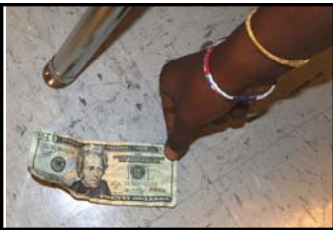
What Would You Do...?

What would you do if you found a twenty dollar bill lying on the floor? Most would claim it for themselves, adopting the "finders, keepers" mentality. Most would not have the conscience to attempt to find the rightful owner. However, on August 17, such an uncommon event occurred through the actions of Veterans student named Brianna Devine.

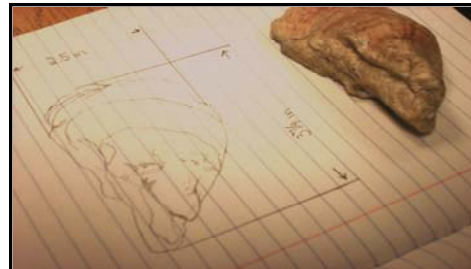
At first, Brianna was not sure what she should do with the money. She found it during transition to fourth period on the 16th, but did not turn it in to the office until first thing the next morning. Brianna says that at first she was excited to have found the money, and her original plan was to keep it, so she took it home with her that night. But the more she thought about it, the more she knew that to keep it would be wrong and selfish. So with encouragement from her mother, she decided that the best thing for her to do would be to turn it in to the front office, and hopefully the true owner would come to claim it.

First thing Friday morning, Brianna turned the money in to Ms. Nolan, a receptionist in Veterans' front office. Ms. Nolan's initial reaction to Brianna's honesty and kindness was shock. She says, "I was surprised that any student who found a \$20 bill anywhere on campus would turn it in instead of keep it. It definitely took a lot and says a lot about her character and the way she was raised. Maybe her actions will encourage other students to be honest."

As of yet, no one has come to claim the cash. The money will continue to be held either until the owner is found, or until the end of the school year. If the money is still there, Mr. Peek will be the one to decide what is done with it. By Elise McDonald and Kya Walker



Veterans' cheerleaders sponsored a fundraiser dance on August 19. Above, the DJ is taking requests as students wait in line. By Emma Golden and Simeon Rogers



Mrs. Henderson's science class has been observing oyster shells. Above is a sketch made by a student which records the shell's size and direct texture. By Emma Golden and Carley Lively

Club News

FCCLA- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America promotes growth and leadership development through Family Consumer Sciences education. If a student wishes to join, the entry fee is 15 dollars, and meetings are every Tuesday afternoon, once or twice a month. Students must have Family and Consumer Science this year or have had it last year to join. For more information, contact Mrs. Worman.

Campus Life- Campus Life is a Christian group, with meetings that are open to anyone who wants to come. Students do not need to bring a bible, but bringing one is appreciated. No entry fee is required to come. The first meeting was held on Friday, August 27, at 8:35 in the cafeteria and over 300 students attended. In the future, meetings will be held at 7:45 in the gym. For more information, see Coach Sammons or Mrs. Reed.

GEMS- GEMS stands for **G**irls **E**ngaged in **M**eaningful **S**ervice. The fee to join GEMS was ten dollars, which included a T-shirt to be worn on field trips. GEMS will meet once a month on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 4:30 P.M. GEMS will also participate in monthly service projects including canned food drives, fundraisers for charities, Special Olympics, Covington Police Fuzz Run, DFCS events, and so much more! Currently, they are raising funds for Walk for African Water Crisis, which will help build a well in an African community. For more information, contact Ms. Jones or Ms. Jackson.

Girl Talk- Girl talk is a club formed by Ms. Alston, where girls can come and talk about their feelings and problems. The meetings will be held on Thursdays. They will discuss relevant books for young teens. For more information contact Ms. Alston in the counselors' suite. By Courtney Coon and Giannia Vasquez



Over 300 students attended the first campus life meeting.

A Leap Into Literature

As a GPS standard, every eighth grade student in the state of Georgia will be required to study Georgia authors in their language arts class. Mrs. Coleman, Veterans' media center specialist, says, "It's important for the students to know about the talented local people who contribute to literature." She also feels that this experience will help the students with their skills in independent research and how to site and streamline research. Mrs. Coleman will be offering research lessons to all eighth grade students, which will help them with their Georgia author reports.

Eighth grade Quest language arts teacher Mrs. Kennon is having her students do a report on a famous author, which will include visual parts such as brochures and scrapbook pages. "Studying Georgia authors is very relevant because you may actually know a famous Georgia author, or know someone who does. It makes published literature seem more personal, and the thought of becoming famous for writing more of a possibility," remarks Mrs. Kennon. "Understanding the personal aspect of writing will encourage a love for literature in the students, and help them to see how culture influences writing. This may also inspire them to become writers themselves." Mrs. O'Sullivan's class is also writing an expository essay on Georgia authors, which they will be presenting orally with a scrapbook page. Like Mrs. Kennon's class, Mrs. O'Sullivan's students will be using note cards and paraphrasing to record their information. She is very happy to say that, thanks to the media center's wide selection, many students were lucky enough to find a book by their author.

As a special surprise, this year Mrs. Coleman plans to have one famous Georgia author visit Veterans every nine weeks. She says that if having four author visits cannot be arranged, two are definite. However, no amount of prying could lead her to disclose the names of the unidentified guests to be. "It's a surprise!" she explained enthusiastically, "I wouldn't want to ruin it." There will also be some Quest readers, who will be reading from books such as the Uncle Remus stories and "The Yellow Watermelon".

Also this month, new books will be arriving at the media center. By the end of September Veterans will have thirteen new laptops and be completely wireless. Mrs. Coleman would also like to remind students about the upcoming book fair.

By Elise McDonald and Hailey Garner



Get your Yearbooks now!

- \$40 without name plate
- \$45 with a name plate
- Turn in orders to Ms. Mortimer
- In January, prices will go up
- Only be 250 yearbooks sold

Pre-order before time runs out!

Come to our Book Fair!

The Scholastic Book Fair is back at Veterans! Wonderful books will be available for purchase in the media center from September 10 to September 17. Don't miss out on the opportunity to snag copies of some of the best, newest literature out!

Thank You Publix!

Mr. Hartman, the technology teacher at Veterans, has assigned a challenging project to his eighth grade class. Students are to create a chair that he must be able to sit in for approximately 90 seconds. Students are not allowed to use tape, glue, staples, etc. If the chair breaks and he falls, the project is unacceptable. The problem is that the supplies needed for this project include a lot of cardboard, and Mr. Hartman doesn't have enough. Looking for a solution, Mr. Hartman asked his friend Mr. Palmer if he could help him out. Mr. Palmer, currently an employee of Publix, led him to another employee, Tara. She helped by donating around 100 pieces of cardboard! Now Mr. Hartman will risk tumbling to the floor as he tests the cardboard chairs. As one of his students says, "This 'oughta' be interesting!" Mr. Hartman and his students very much appreciate Publix's generosity.

By Kanai DeBerry and Carley Lively



Kicking it Off with Some Academic Spirit

On August 13, students were given a break from class to be treated with a spirit-filled academic pep rally to announce the Six Star Generals from last semester. For the first time in years, students in all the grades were able to fit into the bleachers without having to sit on the floor. A Six



Star General is a student who has achieved straight A's on the previous report card. They are awarded a medal for the next nine weeks. Along with the medal come many special privileges like eating at a special table on Fridays, the freedom to go to the restroom, if it is at an appropriate time, and the medal also serves as a hall pass. Many students work hard each nine weeks to receive this honor. At the rally, as each name was announced, the Six Star Generals walked through a tunnel of cheerleaders waving pom-poms, and stepped up onto a platform. They then received a medal from Assistant Principals Ms. Roach or Ms. Causey. After they were given the medal, they formed a line in the center of the Veterans gymnasium, and the crowd cheered for them. Mr. Peek delivered a speech about what it takes to be a General, using an acrostic to describe the characteristics of a good student. Then Ms. Causey made a speech about Veterans' new discipline plan. Afterwards, Ms. Roach revved the Generals up for a new year by shouting chants across the gymnasium such as "Veterans Rocks" and "Veterans Generals". One side of the gym screamed one word and the opposite side screamed the other word to raise the students' spirits for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year!

By Kayla McCord

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Grow academically
Enter & exit quietly
Network with others
Exhibit good character
Respect yourself and others
Accept responsibility
Lead by example
Study daily

Changes at Veterans

Veterans' students and staff started out the 2010-2011 school year on August 6, 2010 with numerous adjustments. These adjustments include schedule changes, rezoning of all middle schools in Newton County, and a greatly reduced budget. Last year, Veterans was very unique in that it had a different daily schedule than any other middle school in the county. Veterans used what they called 'Red, White, and Blue Week schedule'. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students were on a rotating schedule, which was clever in making sure that no student had the same class at the end of the day every day. Newton County wanted every middle school schedule to be the same so 'Red, White, and Blue Week' was terminated. Students now go to their classes in the same order every day.

Newton County schools, including Veterans, had to go through the rezoning process. If students who were going to eighth grade were affected by the rezoning, they had the choice to stay at the school they were already attending. The catch was that students had to be driven to and from school every day. Due to the rezoning, many students had to leave Veterans. The school's population went from 1,200 to 850 because of this change.

Near the end of last year, all middle schools in Newton County were informed that there was a budget cut eliminating athletics. Students, teachers, and parents of all middle schools were upset with this decision and began to voice their opinion. There were several Board of Education (BOE) meetings addressing this issue and many students, parents, and teachers attended. Through a lot of hard work and perseverance, the board agreed to keep the sports program, but students who made any athletic team would have to pay a fee. Despite these many adjustments, Veterans is still succeeding and doing better than ever.

By Kennisa Ragland and Carley Lively

