



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, December 11th, 2020

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

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Georgia Academy for
the Blind - GAB



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Mission Statement: The Georgia Academy for the Blind provides quality education services to Georgia's students with visual impairments and/or visual impairments in conjunction with other disabilities to prepare them to achieve their highest level of independence in transition to college and career readiness. *Check out this student produced video featuring this Mission Statement:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRrbhkGSe98>



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

Mark your Calendar

Holiday Spirit Week:
December 14th through 17th: -
Please see page 7 in this newsletter
to be ready for Holiday Cheer Attire.

**Holiday Break— Starts December
18th through January 1st. School
starts back January 4th.**



Middle School Food Pantry Donations



This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor/Family Engagement Specialist, Jennifer Minter. Please send your ideas, news and resources in your community to her: JMinter@doe.k12.ga.us or call **478-262-3303**. ***Please remember to contact her if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!***

A message from our Superintendent



Welcome to Reece Gibson Combs

Ending the year 2020 and closing GAB for the lengthy holiday gives us pause to consider where we are and what the future that we can control holds for us. First, we give thanks for the patience, expertise, and resilience of the GAB family. Many studies confirm that the element of Hope enables us to press on despite huge losses and failing support.

I think we can all agree that the hopeful spirit is the signature GAB Way, and we are masters of the art of hunkering down when necessary.

As you can see, we continue to keep our traditions as the holiday party to keep our band United. Some virtual students logged on, but we missed those who were not present online or onsite. We celebrate you nonetheless!

And just in case we ever wondered if anything good could come of 2020, many are celebrating the gift of new life. COVID special deliveries arrived without the doting grandparent fanfares at the nursery window or the parade of family and friends to congratulate the new parents, but the joy is immeasurable and brings beauty for the present and future however unpredictable.

Happy holidays!! Online and onsite learning options will remain in effect through March 19, 2021. Updates will be provided as available, and we are committed to providing the best instructional format for each child. Reach out if you need us!

Always,
Cindy

New Beginnings in 2020!



Mrs. Grist family adopted Phelps on October 31, 2020 –He is 4 yrs.



Julee Brown's new pit puppy, Kayn 10 months old.



Meet John & Toni Kimbrough's fur baby: Freckles



Lauren Eckman welcomed 2 precious and rambunctious fur -babies, Cosmo and Kramer, into her home in October.

Mrs. Melanie Thompson's new fur-baby, Allie.



Mrs. Barfield had 7 ducklings born during Spring quarantine and a new steer born in June.





Mrs. Edenfield' s grandbaby is Dawson

And her fur baby is Roxy.



**Heather Church's son,
Kylon, born on 3-16-20.**



**Mrs. Angela
Mack's 10th
grandbaby
Niya
Carswell**

**Ms. Tracy Z with her
1st grand baby,
Beau Edward, born
on 11-17-20.**





**Dawn Day's
Grand puppy
for 2020, Sadie.**

2020



**Linda Brown's
new grand dog -
a chocolate lab
puppy, Mille.**

**Luke Walker Mullis
born October 13th,
First grandchild of
Dawn Mullis, Proud
Parents are Jared &
Amanda Mullis.**



**Cheryl Moore's new
puppies. Tan & white is
Vader. Black & white
below is Athena.**



Beauty, Bling, and Braille



Maddison Hoffman, better known as Maddie, is a new student at GAB this year, and she sure knows how to make a Braille device beautiful! Her device is bedecked with brightly colored jewels. From bright pink and green, to shimmering gold and silver, Maddie's technology is ablaze in a kaleidoscope of color. One might wonder why a young lady with blindness would "bling-out" her device, but she will tell you it's all about two things—accessibility and beauty. "Well, for one thing, I thought it would be cool. For another thing, I did the keys because of my hands," Maddie said. "I have two fingers on my left hand, so I did the jewels on the left side to support my hand. I did the rest of the keys to make it look pretty," she explained, beaming as brightly as the gems she so proudly displays. Watching Maddie use her device to overcome accessibility obstacles by operating her phone, completing her assignments, and sending emails through a jeweled touch shows anyone the true beauty of her creation—independence. As the great American poet, Oliver Wendell Holmes, once said, "beauty is the promise of the future," and, with her bling, what a promising, beautiful future is ahead of our Miss Maddie!



Holiday Spirit Week December 14-17, 2020

Monday: Merry Morning Monday! – Wear your favorite holiday themed pajamas.

Tuesday: Jingle Bells and Candy Canes – Wear red and white and/or your favorite holiday accessories (vests, ties, earrings, head accessories, etc.). Make it fun and festive!

Wednesday: Holiday Sweater Day – Ugly or cute, wear your favorite holiday sweater to represent the season.

Thursday: Holiday Character Day & The Twelve Days of Christmas – Either dress up as your favorite holiday character from your favorite holiday movie OR let your dress represent your favorite line from the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Happy Holidays and Have Fun!

"The Holiday Cheer Committee"

December **Birthdays**

12/5	Joshua	12/25	Zariyah
12/16	Connor	12/26	Dalton
12/17	Stephen	12/29	Blake
12/19	Demorion	12/29	Jermaine
12/25	Shyann	12/31	James C.

