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.

Mark your Calendars

12/16 - Winter Musical Program at 10:30. Please see the flyer on page 6: “Snow Way Out”

12/16 - IEP Binder workshop immediately following The Program. Hosted by Jennifer Minter

1/4 - Back to school, classes resume

1/17 - MLK Jr. Holiday

2/21 - Presidents Day

3/28 through 4/1 - Spring Break

5/12 - Prom at GAB

5/25 - Graduation at GAB & Last Day of School

This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor/Family Engagement Specialist, Jennifer Minter. Feel free to send your ideas, news, and resources in your community to her: JMinter@doe.k12.ga.us or call 478-262-3303.
A message from our Superintendent

May the joy of Christmas Day linger like a blessing in the hearts of all. And may the whole year be gladder, sweeter, brighter. -Helen Keller

Season’s Greetings! GAB Family,

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens... As our 1st semester of school draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a few of our “favorite things” going on at GAB! Last Friday our very own Kristen Applebee and her art students had an unveiling of our new school totem pole which is placed in the sensory garden. Regardless of the weather, we celebrated this event with songs from the senior chorus, a performance from our drumline and cheerleaders, as well as our art students’ sharing their talents and their school spirit. What a way to show our “Panther Pride”!

Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens... Further, our staff gathered in person for our annual holiday luncheon celebration. All enjoyed a catered BBQ luncheon from Georgia Bob’s along with a sing-along and the revealing of our “Secret Santas.” We also honored and recognized two of our staff members who will be “Rocking into Retirement” at the end of the month. Our retirees, Sylvia Williams, who has been a housekeeper with us for 26 years and Robertina Bell who has been a paraprofessional at the academy for 10 years, have both been such an asset to our GAB family and will be missed. We wish them both all the best!

Brown paper packages tied up with string... Today, we were able to enjoy another one of our “favorite things” as we watched our music teacher Catherine Holloway direct her students in this year’s holiday production of “Snow Way Out.” It is always so exciting to see the culmination of the hard work and passion that goes into each musical production. Thank you, Ms. Holloway, for guiding us through this wonderful whimsical experience; these are indeed a few of our favorite things!
On January 3rd, all staff members will be engaged in a district-wide school safety training. Our focus will be on “stop the bleed” and “active shooter” training. The safety of our students, your children, is of paramount importance for us all at GAB.

Finally, as we go into this holiday season, we continue to reflect on how far we have come in such a short time. We are so excited to have been able to keep our doors open to our students while providing them with so many educational opportunities and experiences in a safe and healthy environment. Our goal is to continue doing so when your children return to us on Tuesday, January 4, 2022! We indeed hope that you each has a safe holiday season full of love and family, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

In a world full of Grinches, be a Cindy Lou Who!

Cindy
On Fridays GAB works on the Expanded Core Curriculum through participation in our Ready for the World (RFTW) classes. Some classes teach business skills, some reenforce academic skills, while other teach home maintenance skills. Mr. Guest and Mr. Lyon had the pleasure of teaching home maintenance this last nine weeks. High school students learned the different types of common hand and power tools used to maintain, fix, and improve your home. Students demonstrated proper knowledge and safety protocols for different saws and drills, learned to lay plank flooring, and changed a tire in the parking lot.
To finish up learning home maintenance, students masked off and painted an accent wall in Mr. Lyon’s classroom using rollers and brushes to give the animals a sky blue background.
The GAB tree is on display through the Holiday Break. Our tree is entitled "Peace, Love, and Braille." View over 50 holiday, designer-decorated trees in the Burgess Gallery and around the museum! This exhibition runs through January 15, 2022.
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