



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

**Friday, February 10, 2023**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider*

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



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## Mark your Calendar

**2/14** - Valentine's Day Dance 6 to 8:00 PM

**2/17** - "A Celebration of Black History Through Music "  
Program in the Auditorium at 10:30

**2/20** - Presidents' Day Holiday



**3/4** - Cornhole Tournament at GAB on Saturday

**3/9** - Braille Challenge at GAB, see flier on pg.11

**3/10** - School Council Meeting at 1:00 on Zoom

**3/24** - Art Show & Spring Musical in the Auditorium  
at 10:30 "Junie B. Jones Jr. the Musical"

**3/27 through 3/31** - Spring Break Week



**4/10** - Easter Holiday

**5/18** - Prom Night (location TBA)

**5/25** - Graduation at GAB



# A message from our Superintendent

Dear GAB Families,

Exciting instructional and expanded core, social events are rampant for the February **American Heart Month**. In this edition you will see that Ms. Allison Hawkins and Ms. Kim Smith instituted new wellness opportunities Mindful Mondays where we learn that connecting with our breathing is essential to mind/body freedom and control and Yoga Wednesdays where at a minimum we learn that the brain functions at its highest potential when the body is relaxed and attuned. Ms. Cindy Alligood and department announce their fundraiser Hot for the Heart. Proceeds will go to the **American Heart Association**. These social connections raise wellness awareness as well as promote collegiality between staff and students. A sense of belonging is essential to social/emotional development and blooming where we are planted!



This week we participated in the Statewide tornado drill on Wednesday. You will see additional initiatives for school safety thanks to State Schools Safety Director, Elyse Ferrell, working with Principal, Jon Smith, and IT Director Nathan Forrester. Thanks to our updated camera system, we can trace a person from entrance through the locked gates, throughout the campus to exiting the gates. This month the Georgia Board of Education is expected to approve a request to order state of the art mechanisms which barricade classrooms behind closed doors.

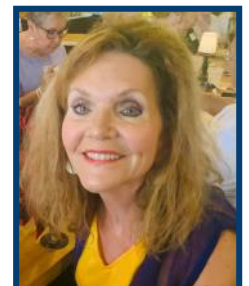
Art Instructor, Ms. Kristen Applebee is a selected member for Superintendent, Richard Woods' Teacher Advisory Committee. She gives us the end roads to knowing the goals and projects of the Department of Education and State Board to serve the needs of teachers and students as well as address the teacher shortage with recruitment in retention initiatives. She shared a summary of proceedings at a recent faculty meeting.

Looking forward, our goal ball team will teach the Georgia Board of Education to play goal ball at a meeting at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf on Wednesday, February 15. **GAB** cheerleaders will perform their SCASB routine and cheer on our inexperienced, blindfolded Board members. The Night to Shine weekend is upon us, and students will participate in a prom for any student in any special education program. Our location is in Dublin. The weekend will be full of fun and fellowship. Pictures to come!

March features the Corn Hole fundraiser and the Regional Braille Challenge. Keep an eye on the calendar and reach out to your case manager if you have any questions about events and criteria for your child. We strive to provide choices to accommodate interests and convenience for families.

Best wishes for a fun and relaxing weekend wherever you may wander!

As ever,  
Cindy



## Mindful Mondays

**A new wellness opportunity started this week at GAB.**

On Mondays, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hawkins facilitated a mindful meditation time in the media center during recess. It is meant to be a time to consciously connect your mind and body and focus on being in the present moment. This mindfulness session is open to **staff and students**.



## Counselors' Corner

## Word for the Month of February **TOLERANCE**

Respecting the individual differences,  
views, and belief of others

*"It is not our **DIFFERENCES** that  
divide us. It is our inability to  
recognize, **ACCEPT**, & celebrate  
those differences."*

*~ Audre Lourde*







**Kristen Applebee was one of about forty members of the Teacher Advisory Council to meet with the State Superintendent last Tuesday at the capitol. The council represents Georgia's approximately 120,000 teachers, bringing concerns to the attention of Superintendent Richard Woods, and taking information back to our schools. Council members attended sessions of state congress and met with Representative Evans who serves on the Education Committee. Legislative priorities in education include meeting students mental health needs by having a lower student to counselor ratio. They**

**are also working to ensure that students in every district have access to fine arts classes. They want to increase literacy rates by ensuring that there are paraprofessionals for kindergarten and first grades classes across the state. GAB is ahead of the game with these issues. One of the biggest complaints by teachers around the state has been student disciplinary problems. It was suggested that parents and teachers read, " Responsibility Centered Disciplinary Approach" by Larry Thompson to include students in the solution to these issues.**



# Hot for Heart

**GAB** is raising money for the **American Heart Association**. Students will be given an opportunity to donate next week. On Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> students can purchase a hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate to drink during guidance. The minimum donation for one cup is \$1.00.



American  
**Heart**  
Association®



# Georgia Academy for the Blind



## TOURNAMENT

To benefit the class of 2023

**When:** Saturday, March 4, 2023

Registration 10:00 a.m.

\$40 per team of two (**cash or check**)

Tournament 11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Georgia Academy for the Blind  
2895 Vineville Ave, Macon

This fun-filled day will feature a world class tournament, snacks, beverages, and other contests. This an event you won't want to miss!

### **\$1000 Cash Payout:**

1<sup>st</sup> place - \$500

2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$300

3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$200

**Shot in the  
Dark Contest**

**Family Fun**



# Braille Challenge

Date: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Time: 8:30 – 3:00

Place: Georgia Academy for the Blind  
2895 Vineville Ave. 31204



Macon Georgia



## Georgia Academy for the Blind



## BOOT SCOOTIN' BRAILLERS

2023  
BRAILLE  
CHALLENGE



Contact for Parents: Jennifer Minter

478-751-6083 ext.1140

Contact for TVIs & students is Dawn Day

email: [mday@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mday@doe.k12.ga.us)

# February Birthdays

Jayden	2/2	DaQuan	2/15
Ryder	2/2	Roni	2/22
Elisha	2/3	Dorrian	2/24
Brian	2/6		
Aidan	2/6		

