



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, February 24, 2023

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



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Mark your Calendar

3/2 - *Pajama Day* celebrating Read Across America

3/3 - Out of school, Professional learning for staff

3/4 - Cornhole Tournament at GAB on Saturday

3/9 - Braille Challenge at GAB, see flier on pg.12

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

TBA - Art Show & Spring Musical in the Auditorium
at 10:30 "Junie B. Jones Jr. the Musical"

3/27 through 3/31 - Spring Break Week

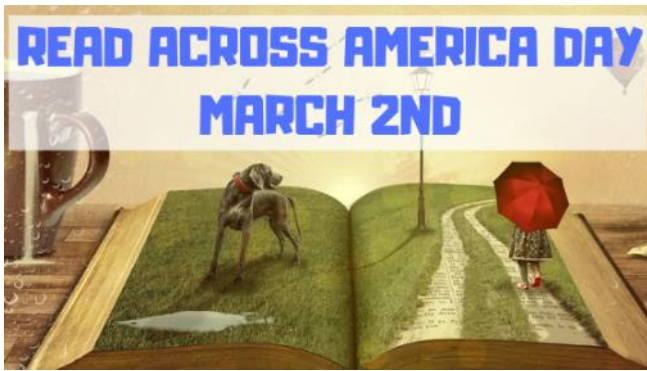


4/10 - Easter Holiday

5/18 - Prom Night (location TBA)

5/25 - Graduation at GAB

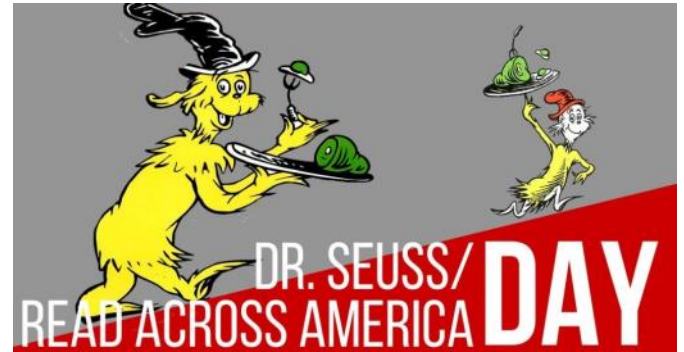




Read Across America Week is celebrated from March 2 to 6 — it begins on the birthday of the beloved author, Dr. Seuss. The entire month of March, in fact, is dedicated to reading. The National Education Association (N.E.A.) aims to encourage reading and educate

people about its benefits, especially among children and young adults.

On Thursday, March 2nd, students and staff are invited to a read-in. School appropriate pajamas may be worn and the first part of our day will be dedicated to reading. A special Seuss inspired snack will be served at break. Happy Reading! -Mrs. Smith



The GAB pool is back up and running! Students will need to bring swim suits and anything else they might need to be prepared for swim opportunities!



A message from our Superintendent

This edition of Panther Press is chock full of student activity and staff participation! First up, thank you to students Kayleigh Littlejohn, Mary Pickman, and Roni Fleming-Slade under the direction of Ms. Catie Holloway for presenting the song and Pledge of Allegiance at the Macon Rotary Club last week. The Club always looks forward to GAB students, and member agencies contribute generously to the student fund.

GAB was once again visited by Ron Fuss and Dr. Cassandra Matthews of the Georgia Department of Education and by Zoom, Dr. Karen Blankenship in support of State Schools implementation of English Language Arts curriculum. This is a huge undertaking, and students and staff are building a host of data to show activities and growth. This is something to really shout about!

The Georgia Board of Education enjoyed the GAB Goal Ball, cheerleader, and mascot exhibition at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf last week. We appreciate Coaches Keith Blackwell and Sara Lynch for the time and talent in these areas of intense competition. Panther Zy Fagin won 1st place at the recent SCASB competition in Alabama, and you should see his feet flutter across the floor lighter than butterflies! Michael Jackson would be proud! Thank you to all our students for a long and fun day of travel and entertainment. Lisa Kinnemore, seated with Dr. Kenney Moore, is a long-time avid support of GAB. After GAB demonstrated the goal ball game, they invited AASD and GSD students to a match. Our opponents had to be blindfolded to even the playing field, but it still wasn't exactly fair because this was their first experience guarding the ball with their whole bodies. Alas, accommodations were provided: GAB slowed down the speed of the ball, and AASD Superintendent, J. Jack Johnson, jumped in to coach his team! This will be an annual tradition.



Zy as GAB Mascot

Spring has sprung at Macon, Georgia. Kalena Medeiros enjoyed cutting fresh flowers from the GAB landscape and making arrangements for all to appreciate. Israel Tyre is participating in Work-Based Learning (WBL), and his job is to water plants in my office. What a joy! He was so proud of himself! We all know that purposeful service is essential to participating in the community. I can't wait until next week!



If you missed the Black History program “Celebrating Black History Through Music,” you missed a most enlightening and entertaining history lesson. This amazing event was produced by teacher Dr. Cheryl Washington who wrote an astounding script explaining the relevance of each act in history. Paraprofessional Justin Fuller-Green did a splendid job of emceeing beside local celebrity of WMAZ Ms. Sonja Morris-Daughtery. This event featured community talent, student gifts, and staff side-hustles! Did you know that Mr. Pete the Bus Driver is an Engineer and plays saxophone?? Elvis may have left the building, but Kayleigh Littlejohn brought down the house with “Hound Dog!” William Hanks elevated all the spirits with his big voice rendition of “I Feel Good.” This was a true GAB family affair where our students got to know staff interests apart from GAB roles. The last selection before the Cupid Shuffle featured HR Technician, Deborah Ezell as Director, Braille teacher Gloria Gardiner on violin, English teacher Lauren Eckman on flute, and I was allowed to share piano with none other than student Landyn Francis! The GAB choir joined us in a rendition of “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.”

Enjoy the picture gallery!

As ever,

Cindy







TRANSITION TALK

The transition department has been very busy and creative all while providing services, reusing, and recycling! The WBL and Career Awareness classes offer paper shredding services to GAB staff.

However, it doesn't stop there! They do not discard the paper. They use the shredded paper to refill beanbag chairs on campus, that have lost their fluff. Not to mention, they had **A LOT OF FUN** in the process!

BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

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:

1st place - \$500

2nd place - \$300

3rd place - \$200

Shot in the
Dark Contest

Family Fun



Braille Challenge

Date: March 9th, 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



SPRING RESOURCE FAIR

for people with special
needs and their
supporters

Hosted by the Crawford County School System
Department of Exceptional Children

FREE event for
families to connect
with a variety of
vendors and discover
the wonderful
resources that
Central Georgia has
to offer its Special
Needs Community.

**Saturday,
March 18**
9am - 12 pm
Crawford County
Middle/High School
400 East Agency Street
Roberta, Ga



For further information
<https://fb.me/e/25sea8PU9>
478-550-8020



Middle Georgia GLRS and RESA presents



Middle Georgia GLRS Transition Resource Fair



Saturday, April 29, 2023
9 am -12 pm

Roy H "Sonny" Watson Health Science Building
80 Cohen Walker Drive Warner Robins, Ga 31088



Post-Secondary Resources



Community Agencies



Q & A time to ask questions

This event is designed to provide students with disabilities, their families, or guardians with resources for transitioning from school into the community

For additional information, contact the Middle GA GLRS Transition Consortia:

Larissa Beecher

478-988-7170

lbeecher@mgresa.us

March Birthdays

Zy	3/4	BJ	3/28
Destiny	3/14	Sammy	3/29
Ja'Mikel	3/17	Noble	3/31

