

Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind **Friday, February 3rd, 2023**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent 2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



Georgia Academy for the Blind

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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, 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,

This has been a week of celebration and preparation! In this issue we present pictures of the Teacher Recruitment Fair hosted by Middle Georgia State University. Ms. Alicia Jackson and I met some 70 junior and senior Education majors from Wesleyan College and Middle Georgia State University. Middle Georgia State University has historically been cutting edge in graduating students with General Education and Special Education certification eligible degrees earned concurrently! Middle Georgia children are well- provided for with the preparation of these young professionals.

I hope you enjoyed the SCASB (South Central Association of Schools for the Blind) event coverage on Facebook. We are so proud of our students and staff who coached and accompanied students to the Alabama School for the Blind. Next up, journey to the Texas School for the Blind in spring.

Congratulations to Greg Hudgins, Orientation and Mobility Instructor, who retired from GAB effective February 1, 2023. Greg, his wife, Betty, and his father, York, have been a huge part of GAB history for many years! Greg and Betty were match-made by colleagues at the GAB before the turn of the century, I am told! Thank you, Greg, for all the lives you have touched.

Two important GaDOE reviews were conducted last week, and our staff, students, and programs were deemed to be most excellent. The Curriculum walk-thru observations showed our students immersed in literacy teaching and learning utilizing the District adopted curricula and IEP accommodations. Thank you to Dr. Cassandra Washington and School Improvement Specialist Ron Fuss for guidance, support, and onsite observations. Also, shout out to the School Nutrition Program for their consistent compliance diligence that assures a top rating when the external review is conducted. Thank you to Andrea Johnson, School Nutrition Program Director, and Karla Stovall, Culinary Coordinator, for the internal review and guidance.

GAB high school students have the opportunity for a Short Course Weekend activity Night to Shine, which is a prom for any student in any special education program. This event is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Corporation, and our designated location is in Dublin. We have participated in the past, and this is a thrilling opportunity to meet other middle Georgia students. The flyer is in the newsletter. Cost is \$10.00 for selected students. Sign up quickly!

Once again, we ask that you caution students about sharing personal information or telephones. Also, we encourage families to talk about students' needing to report to an adult at any time they feel unsafe or believe someone else is unsafe. Friends support friends to make good decisions!

We have spent a lot of time in meetings working on the design of the instructional and residential cottages. Target date for move-in is August 2025. It's getting exciting, and we'll share pictures in the coming months when design work is completed.

Enjoy your weekend and let us know if you need anything.

As ever,

Cindy





HAPPY RETIREMENT MR. HUDGINS!















Ms. Touchton's World History classes have been studying China, specifically the Chinese Lunar New Year, which was celebrated January 22nd. They created the traditional red envelopes given as gifts at the New Year and filled them with candy for their classmates. Paper fortune cookies with fortunes they chose were handed out to staff. In addition, they created red and gold lanterns which are also traditional for the New Year celebration.

The students also studied the Chinese zodiac, learning about their zodiac animal for the year they were born and that 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. They learned about what their zodiac sign says about their personalities and were able to look up their Western zodiac sign to compare and contrast. From their research, they created a personality profile and indicated whether their zodiacs' characteristics fit them or not.

To go along with their profile, they created a small watercolor painting, a Chinese art form, and looked up the symbol for their animal sign. With authentic Chinese ink from an inkstone and Chinese calligraphy brushes, they recreated the symbol on their paintings.

Ms. Minter was our special guest for many of our activities. She has an interest in Western astrology and wanted to learn about the Chinese zodiac. While she was visiting, she taught us some things about our western signs.

Thank you, Ms. Minter!

Next, the students will learn about China's religious and philosophical traditions.





Ms. Kim Novak, a curator for Macon's Museum of Arts and Sciences, is once again linked up with GAB science and art teachers for another project. If you recall, last year science students built a model of the layers of the atmosphere, and art students created a Claymation and song about the layers of the atmosphere, and both were displayed in the museum for a few months. The meeting this week involved our next project with the NASA-sponsored GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) program. Kim was at GAB this week to train GAB teachers to be official GLOBE teachers in the classroom so we can properly instruct the students and include them in this multi-year STEAM project. Once GAB obtains all the certified instruments, students and teachers will measure various weather conditions, such as temperature, atmospheric pressure, and relative humidity, as well as include detailed information about the cloud and sky conditions, and load all the information onto an App for everyone in GLOBE to view.

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 Georgia Academy for the Blind



SPONSORSHIP BENEFIT PACKAGES

Join us for our GAB Cornhole Tournament, Saturday, March 4, 2023 starting at 10:00 a.m. on the campus of the Georgia Academy for the Blind to benefit the Class of 2023. The address for this event is 2895 Vineville Avenue, Macon, GA. This fun-filled day will feature a world class tournament and other contests.

EVENT SPONSOR LEVEL \$2,500

- Prime logo placement on all event promotional materials, electronic and print
- Entry for two teams into the tournament
- One set of custom boards and bags with their logo on it

LANE SPONSOR LEVEL \$300

- Signage at the event sponsoring one set of boards on the playing field
- Shout-outs on the event page and at the tournament
- One free team entry into the tournament

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(Checks can be made payable to GAB and marked for Cornhole Sponsor) (Receipts for tax-deductible sponsorship donations available upon request)

TO BECOME A SPONSOR OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS:

Contact Gene Collins, at panthercornhole@gmail.com

Braille Challenge

Date: March 9th, 2023 Time: 8:30 – 3:00

Place: Georgia Academy for the Blind

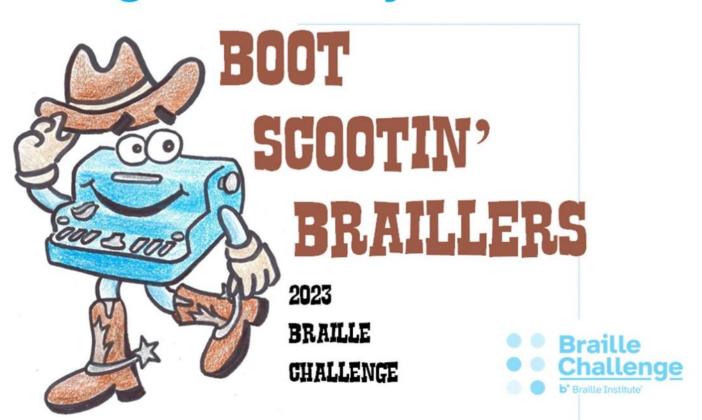
2895 Vineville Ave. 31204

Macon Georgia





Georgia Academy for the Blind



Contact for Parents: Jennifer Minter 478-751-6083 ext.1140

Contact for TVIs & students is Dawn Day

email: 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

