



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, February 9, 2024

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

2895 Vineville Ave.

Macon, GA



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Mark your Calendar

2/9 through 2/11 - Short Course Weekend

2/14 - Valentine's Dance, Media Center 6-8pm

2/16 & 2/19 - Holidays for Presidents' Day

2/23 - Black History Program at 10:30

2/23 - School Council Meeting at 2:00pm

3/2 - Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser at GAB

3/7 - Braille Challenge at GAB

3/29 through 4/5 - Spring Break

4/11 through 4/14 - SCASB Track & Field

5/16 - Prom at GAB

5/23 - Graduation



5/24 - Last Day of School

Hello GAB Family,

This has been another busy yet productive week at GAB! The safety of your children, our GAB scholars, is paramount, so as a GAB whole faculty TEAM, we have been implementing additional policies and procedures to ensure that ALL students and staff are safe and are excited to be here!

Celebrations and Recognitions

On Tuesday, February 6, we celebrated the graduation of our student scholar Brian McClain, as he took his final walk around the campus of GAB! Brian has been with us since enrolling as a 3rd grader and he will be missed by his peers and the entire GAB TEAM! Please enjoy the pictures of him celebrating his EXTRA SPECIAL day!

Also on Tuesday, February 6, our transition students and staff from



Project SEARCH, Panther Pro's, and Hutchings, hosted the Project SEARCH monthly state meeting at GAB. Our students wowed the audience as they provided information regarding their work rotations at Atrium Health Navicent, Critter Sitters Doggy Day Care, Goodwill, and Hutchings. You would have been so amazed and proud of the hard work our student scholars and staff have put in to make these programs successful.



This week is **National School Counseling Week**, and we want to be sure to recognize and honor our school counselor, Mr. Octavian Burch. Mr. Burch is responsible for providing guidance lessons, Character Counts, as well as facilitating the D.A.R.E. program at GAB. He is also regarded as a “big brother,” and a “safe place” for our students to go



when they need someone to talk to. His dedication to our students is paramount and appreciated.



Staff Spotlight: “Stay true in the dark, and humble in the spotlight.” We would like to shine the “spotlight of excellence” on our very own **Deborah Ezell**, State Schools Human Resources Technician II. Ms. Ezell has been with GAB for 18 years and has served tirelessly in many capacities including her current position as our human resources specialist. **Ms. Ezell** works behind the scenes to ensure all concerns regarding compensation, leave, hiring, and other HR concerns are addressed in a timely manner. We want to salute **Ms. Ezell** and thank her for her hard work and dedication.

Finally, we continue to ask for your support in making **GAB** the best school ever! Many have stated that we are the “best kept secret” in Macon, but we no longer want to be considered a secret; we want our community and state to know that we have a lot to offer our students who need us!



Make this a wonderful weekend!

Alicia M. Jackson

Interim School-level Superintendent

Dear GAB families,

As our school's **Box Tops** for Education Coordinator, I want to thank you for all your support this year with Box Tops! We are close to achieving our earnings goal for the school year — and with your continued support, I know we can reach it!

Our goal is to earn \$100.00 through **Box Tops** this year to help with our student fund. We are currently **80%** of the way there.

Every **Box Tops** product count towards our goal!

Let's work together to get GAB to the finish line.

If you need help with the Box Tops app, please let me know.

-Miss Layson

slayson@doe.k12.ga.us





GAB Families,

**KIDS
HEART
CHALLENGE™**

**AMERICAN
HEART
CHALLENGE™**

Get ready for the American Heart Association's Heart Challenge! This year, our school will be learning about staying strong in body and mind, we'll get moving with fun activities, and raise funds for the health of all hearts. Plus, they'll feel good for doing good!

Remember to send colors for your child to wear on

Wellness Wednesdays:

Feb. 14th-Red

Feb. 21st-Yellow

Feb. 28th-Purple

Mr. Lyon, wearing his ORANGE jacket while helping DJ with his ORANGE tie on February 7th, Wellness Wednesday color ORANGE!



Look out for the American Heart flyer in the GAB newsletter and your child's backpack. Also, download the Heart Challenge App or visit heart.org/KHC to learn about all the ways your family can help to create a community of lifesavers by learning the lifesaving steps of Hands-Only CPR. It's quick, easy, and fun!

If you would like to make a donation, please make any checks payable to the American Heart Association and send them in a labeled envelope. Have your student turn them into Mrs. McDavid. We will be collecting donations until February 29.

Thank you for keeping more hearts beating strong!

Dawn McDavid

Teacher: Physical Education and Health

Georgia Academy for the Blind



Please join us for the...

Black History Program *Celebration*

Celebrate Black History through the Arts.

When: February 23rd, 2024 in the GAB Auditorium 10:30am



Georgia Academy for the Blind



TOURNAMENT

To benefit the Students of GAB

When: Saturday, March 2, 2024

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

Our tournament is sponsored by **C&W Contracting** this year.
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



😱😱 My kid did **WHAT?!?!!** 😱😱



FACTS:

- 1) The Internet can be a very dangerous place.
- 2) Kids don't always make the best decisions.
- 3) Things posted online are permanent.

Do you know what your children are doing online?

HELP IS ON THE WAY!

Join us for an EMPOWERING workshop for FAMILIES!

- Learn the dangers kids face on the internet and ways you can help protect them.
- Discuss online enticement, sextortion, and cyberbullying with professionals.
 - Take away tools to help monitor your children's online activities.
- Hear from one of our very own parents whose child was groomed by sex traffickers for two years and what unfolded when traffickers showed up at school to take her.

ZOOM IN

(links coming soon)

March 5th – 7:30 – English & ASL

March 7th – 7:30 – English & Spanish

Special Agent April Griffith works with the **Exploitation of Children and Computer Crimes Unit** of the **Georgia Bureau of Investigation** where she conducts investigations involving crimes against children on the internet and commercial sexual exploitation of children. S/A Griffith holds degrees in both Psychology and Criminal Justice and has trained local law enforcement across the state in how to deal with those that suffer from mental illness, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases.

😱😱 Mi hijo hizo **¿QUÉ???** 😱😱



HECHOS:

- 1) Internet puede ser un lugar muy peligroso.
- 2) Los niños no siempre toman las mejores decisiones.
- 3) Las cosas publicadas en línea son permanentes.

¿Sabes qué hacen tus hijos en línea?

¡Únase a nosotros en un taller para EMPODERAR a las FAMILIAS!

- Conozca los peligros que enfrentan los niños y jóvenes en Internet y las formas en que usted puede protegerlos.
- Hable sobre la incitación en línea, la sextorsión y el ciberacoso con profesionales.
 - Tome las herramientas para ayudar a monitorear las actividades en línea de sus hijos.
- Escuche a uno de nuestros propios padres cuya hija fue involucrada emocionalmente por traficantes sexuales durante dos años y lo que ocurrió cuando los traficantes aparecieron en la escuela para

¡LA AYUDA ESTÁ EN CAMINO!

Por ZOOM

(enlaces próximamente)

5 de marzo – 7:30 pm – en inglés y en ASL

7 de marzo – 7:30 pm – en inglés y en español

La agente especial April Griffith trabaja con la Unidad de Explotación Infantil y Delitos Informáticos de la Oficina de Investigaciones de Georgia, donde lleva a cabo investigaciones sobre delitos contra niños en Internet y explotación sexual comercial de niños. S/A Griffith tiene títulos en Psicología y Justicia Penal y ha capacitado a las autoridades locales en todo el estado sobre cómo tratar con quienes padecen enfermedades mentales, discapacidades del desarrollo y enfermedades adictivas.

BRaille CHALLENGE



DATE: March 7, 2024



TIME: 8:30 - 3:00



PLACE: Georgia Academy for the Blind

2895 Vineville Ave.

Macon, GA 31204

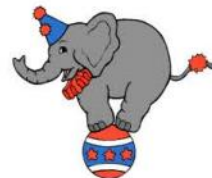


Contact For Parents: Jennifer Minter

478 - 751- 6083 ext. 1140

Contact For TVI's and Students: Dawn Day

mday@doe.k12.ga.us



February 2024

Birthdays

Ryder	2/2	Brian	2/6
Jayden	2/2	Arianna	2/11
Elisha	2/3	Ambria	2/18
Kailyn	2/4	Roni	2/22
		Dorrian	2/24

