



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

March 22, 2019

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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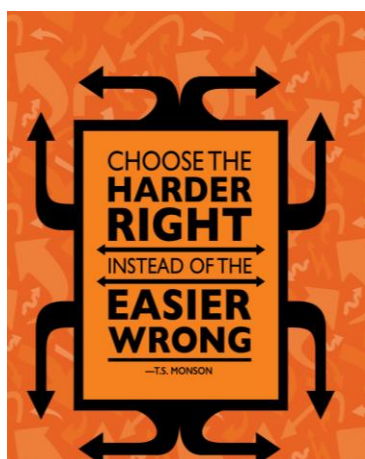


Georgia Academy for the
Blind - GAB



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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. *Check out this student produced video featuring this Mission Statement:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrbhkGSe98>



Mark Your Calendars

*Just added

March 25-29: Spring Break

*April 1: High School prom packets and money due!

April 4: High School Prom

April 9: Special Olympics

April 11-14: SCASB, Alabama (Track & Field)

April 22: Easter Holiday

April 25- 28: Senior Trip

May 17: Graduation

May 24: Last day of school

Character Education

Determination: the inner strength and outward effort to pursue a goal or a task.

"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress." Barack Obama



Whether you are traveling or enjoying a "stay-cation", we want to wish all our students and families a very safe and happy spring break. In addition to relaxing and having fun, remember to have your child help prepare meals, do some chores, read, read, read and practice math facts in fun ways during their time with you (see page 2 for some resources.) We look forward to our residential students to return on Sunday, March 31 and having all our students back to school on Monday, April 1!

This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor, Sonya Milam. Please send your ideas, news, and resources in your community to her. smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303



Students remaining March birthdays:

Harry	03/23
Angelica L	03/27
BJ	03/28
Sammy	03/29

April Student Birthdays

Pierce	April 2	Ashlyn	April 21
Caden W	April 4	Joshiah	April 25
Quaderrius	April 7	Marquez	April 26
Dillon	April 17	Majestic	April 27
Frankie	April 18	Hope D.	April 28
Eugene	April 21	Joe	April 30

Staff remaining March birthdays:

Mr. Hudgins	03/24
Ms. Ezell	03/25
Mr. Lumpkin	03/25

April Staff Birthdays:

Ms. Stroud	April 4
Mr. Harris	April 8
Ms. Vaughn	April 9
Ms. Hawkins	April 12
Ms. Easley	April 19
Ms. Bronner	April 25
Ms. Minick	April 25
Ms. Thompson	April 30



Families: Don't forget to encourage your child read during spring break and perhaps read along with them. There are resources available below and through your local library too!

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/resources/sources-free-braille-books?fbclid=IwAR1DxXoBBmw4N3rw9bcvujTsXJ2Mgwg19vCT9KPfkWoRiFj8pEnkCPkdIW0>



Keep math and literacy alive this spring and get prepared for the summer! Check out the membership offerings from Described and Captioned Media Program here:

<https://dcmp.org/>

The Case of the Missing 1000 Box Tops Mission 2: March 22, 2019



Our GAB Box Top detectives have been busy this past week. One of our staff, Ms. Flanders, brought in 34 and Noah brought in 14. That is a total of 48. Almost \$5.00 for the student fund. I know we are all excited about Spring Break, but while you are enjoying fun, food, and fellowship with others could you keep an "eye" out for Box Tops? It would be great if after the break we could collect 100 Box Tops. Remember, the money we raise goes towards our educational field trips like the ones you read about in Panther Press! Thanks for all you have done for our students. Click below to see list of participating products.

<https://ga02225912.schoolwires.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=22&dataid=186&FileName=BoxTopsParticipating-Products-Flyer-mar2015.pdf>

Sylvia Layson, TVI slayson@doe.k12.ga.us (478) 751-6083 Ext. 1200



FOURTH NOTICE: Summer Camps!



Act fast as spots are limited. Scholarships are available! Contact Sonya for details! Note: these camp resources are simply provided as a courtesy to our families. Though we are confident that they are appropriate for and accessible to our students, GAB does not endorse or sponsor any camp.



Georgia Lions Club Camp, Waycross, GA

June 23~28: Family Camp, age 5-12

June 30~ July 5: Teens, age 13-17

July 7~14: Young Adults, age 18-30

Get your application by contacting Sonya Milam,

Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303 or get it from their website:

<https://www.glcb.org/> **DEADLINE IS APRIL 15 – no late applications will be considered!**

CAMP ABILITIES



COLUMBUS, GA

"A LOSS OF SIGHT, NEVER A LOSS OF VISION"

Camp Abilities Columbus, GA May 24, 2019 - May 27, 2019 at Columbus State University

Camp Abilities Columbus, GA is a residential camp that will be open for a maximum of 16 campers, ages 9 to 18 years old who are blind or visually impaired. Sports and recreational activities include: goalball, beep baseball, beep kickball, tandem biking, rock climbing, swimming, soccer, tennis, track & field and team building activities. Learn more from their website:

[https://kinhs.columbusstate.edu/camp_abilities/camper_registration.p](https://kinhs.columbusstate.edu/camp_abilities/camper_registration.php)

hp Contact Jeanine Fittipaldi-Wert

at wert_jeanine@columbusstate.edu for information regarding camp registration



Camp Dreams, (Camp Grace, Roberta, GA)

July 21st – July 24th (Sun. - Wed.) and July 25th – July 28th (Thur. - Sun.) Only online applications are accepted. See the link below. Let Sonya know if you would like assistance in registering.

<http://www.campdreamga.org/summer-camp>



Blaze Adaptive Sports Camp, Camp Twin Lakes, Winder, GA

July 21-26 Ages 7-17 Only online applications are accepted. See the link below. Let Sonya know if you would like assistance in registering.

www.blazesports.org/what-we-do/programs/2019-blazesports-star-camp/



STARS Day Camp at the Center for the Visually Impaired,

Atlanta. Transportation from 7 points in Atlanta area provided. All grades for day camp 9 am-3pm. To register go to

<https://www.cviga.org/userFiles/en/STARS%20Summer%20Enrichment%20Registration%202019.pdf> Sonya has paper applications available as well.

Deadline is May 3!

Week 1 - June 3 to 7 . . . STARS & the Arts

Week 2 - June 10 to 14 . . . STARS & the Arts

Week 3 - June 17 to 21 . . . Sports and Recreation

Week 4 - June 24 to 28 . . . ECC Week, with a focus on Activities of Daily Living, Transition, Social Skills & more!



Middle Georgia Families

Mapping a *Self-Determined Future*

"Where Transition Meets Real Life"

Saturday, April 13, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast 8:30

Anderson Conference Center

5171 Eisenhower Parkway

Macon, GA 31206

Youth
Leadership
Track

Work and
Job
Training

College
Bound
Information

Community
Resources

Register NOW! Space is limited.

**DEADLINE to register is
April 5, 2019**

Register at:

<http://tinyurl.com/SDConf19>

Or use your QR Reader to register:



Questions? 478-988-7177

This is a one day conference designed to allow parents, students with disabilities, teachers and other professionals to dream about the possibilities for a full life after graduation. There will be a youth leadership track and opportunities for parents and others to learn more about post-secondary transitions, including college, technical school, job training, day programs, and independent living.

Welcome by Dr. Curtis Jones, National Superintendent of the Year.

Note from our Parent Mentor: *I will be attending and presenting at this conference and would love to see our high school students and parents join me. Be sure to register both you and your student. Let me know if you need assistance with this. Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303*



This Week in Pictures

Below: Ms. Layson's fifth grade class took their annual field trip to Warm Springs, GA to visit the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Students enjoyed touring the museum and the Little White House. They also visited the pool where Roosevelt and others enjoyed the warm water in helping with polio. One of our Social Studies standards for fifth grade involves studying American history. Standard SS5H4 covers many aspects of our involvement in World War II when Roosevelt was president. This trip enriched our study. Along with Ms. Layson and Ms. Bain, also attending the educational field trip was graduating senior, Judy who is completing her practicum for her dual enrollment Teaching as a Profession Pathway in Bibb County School System's Hutchings College & Career Academy. Also pictured is the unfinished portrait of Roosevelt and a wheelchair he once used.



Left: Students enjoying Lunch in the Library for good behavior



Below: Our middle and high school field trip to the Mercedes-Benz Stadium enabled us to put our O&M and math skills, history and economics knowledge, and even music skills to the test! Everyone experienced getting through a strict security check prior to our group picture in front of the Giant Falcon. The students maneuvered from the upper deck to the middle deck suites of the rich and famous (including Arthur Blanks) and then to the floor level where they explored the Atlanta Falcons' and Atlanta United locker rooms. The guides informed the group about the history of the stadium (finished a little more than a year ago), how long it took to plan everything (10 years), how long it took to build it (3 years), and how much it cost to build it (\$1 billion+). They got to explore samples of artificial turf, put on shoulder pads, pose with wooden players, feel the Falcons' helmets, and listen to broadcasts of major plays last season for the Falcons and United. The finale was the highlight in the United locker room singing "Oleeeee, Ole-Ole-Oleee, Oooooleee, Oooooleee!"

