



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, March 26th, 2021

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

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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=IRbkhGSe98>

Mark your Calendars

3/29 through 4/5 - Spring Break Week with Easter Holiday
Residential students return on Monday 4/5.



4/12 - All orders for New GAB Logo Merch is due on Monday.

4/19 through 4/23 - Paraprofessional & Residential Advisor
Appreciation Week!



5/3 through 5/7 - Teacher Appreciation Week!



5/20 - Prom at Morgan View Farm.

5/21 - Graduation on GAB campus.



This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor/Family Engagement Specialist, Jennifer Minter. Please send your ideas, news and resources in your community to her: JMinter@doe.k12.ga.us or call **478-262-3303**. ***Please remember to contact her if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!***

A message from our Superintendent

Dear GAB Families,

It's **Cherry Blossom** time in Macon, and the weather could not be more indicative of our joy at being beyond dreary winter, rain and shut-downs. As all nature is dressed in Pink here, the GAB staff and students enjoyed a **Think Pink** week. Enjoy the pictures included to get an idea of how some people love to pop a costume for any reason or none! We appreciate the blessing of Deborah Ezell, GAB Human Resource Representative, on her birthday. **Pretty in Pink!**

Georgia Board of Education member Mike Long stopped by on his way home from ATL and found us in the midst of our spring traditions. He met Dr. Hyun who is the Mercer Engineering School professor who founded the GAB 3-D Yearbook. He and students were here to scan our seniors for their 3-D pictures. He also got a sneak preview from our Media Specialist Kim Smith about what our media center remodeling will include this summer. Kim Smith is the designer! Impressive! He learned of the GAB prom plans for Thursday, May 20 and Graduation on Friday, May 21, at 11:00 a.m., where he will be our featured speaker - Motivating! Mr. Long left us with a spring in his step as he witnessed our doing what we do – Teach, Learn, and Celebrate. Notice the **pink** tie he just “happened” to have!

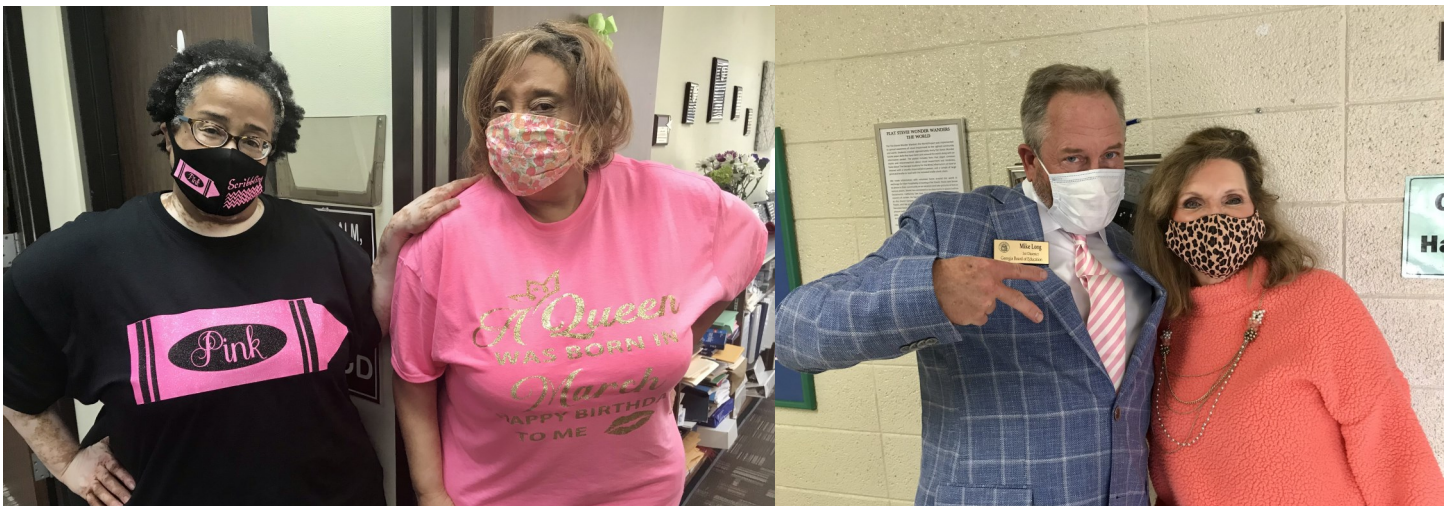
Don't forget about Summer Program. There will be a 3-day program (June 7-9) for students who have VI with additional disabilities and a one-week program will be available for VI students who need academic enrichment (June 6-11). The application is now available. Please reach out to Dawn Day, Curriculum Director, mday@doe.k12.ga.us if you need more information or have questions.

You have probably seen the news about COVID vaccines being available for ages 16 and up. Many of us have been vaccinated and others will be in the coming weeks. While we have been operating safely in the COVID era since August 2020, please know that all CDC guidance is followed in planning for operations throughout the duration of pandemic protocol. We could not have done this without team effort and huge family support. As of this time, GAB will be an onsite facility only with the opening of the 2021-2022 school year on Monday, August 9, 2021. Do plan accordingly and reach out as needed.

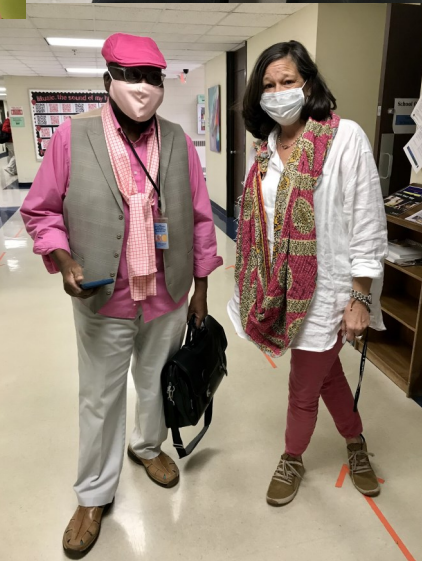
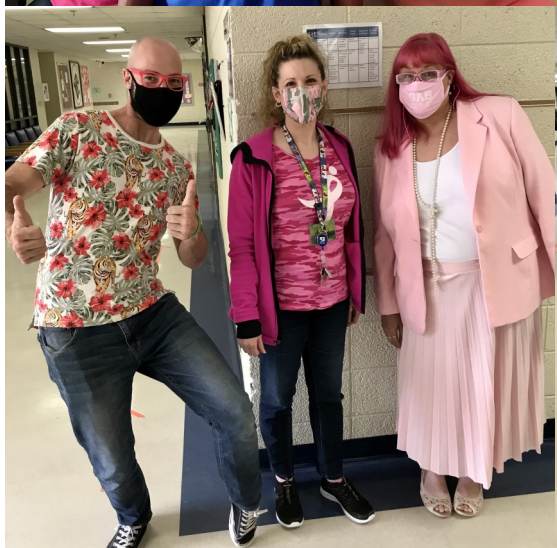
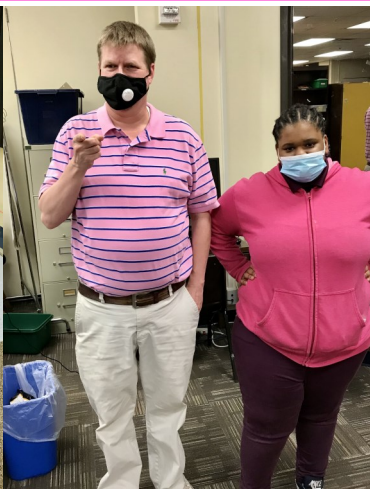
Happy Spring Break and Easter. We'll be seeing some of you on Monday night April 5 for classes to resume on Tuesday April 6, 2021.

Always,

Cindy



It's **Cherry Blossom** Time in Macon GA! This year the International **Cherry Blossom** Festival started on March 19th and continues through March 28th, 10 days of **Pink** events! Macon is known as the "**Cherry Blossom Capital of the World**," it has approximately 350,000 Yoshino Cherry Trees that bloom around the city in late March every year since 1982.

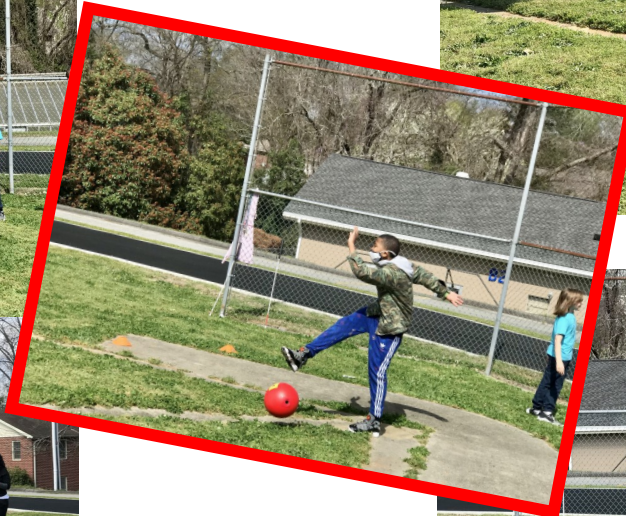


A Shout out from our Health & PE Teacher, Ms. Alligood:

Mr. Blackwell, Mrs. Holloway, Ms. Little and Ms. Alligood taught Beep Kickball throughout quarter 3. Beep Kickball is a great RFTW activity for our GAB students. The benefits of Beep Kickball are the same as any team sport: confidence, leadership, perseverance, camaraderie, exercise, sportsmanship, increased mobility and agility, and independence as well as a willingness to try something new. Students enjoyed the weekly break outdoors taking advantage of the nice spring like weather.

See the link below to learn more about the game of Beep Kickball:

<http://beepkickball.com/>



This week in Mr. Lyon's class:

PERSONIFICATION PRACTICE

Personification is when you make something non-human seem to come alive with human-like characteristics! Our GAB scholars have been showing off their poetry skills. Can you guess what is being personified in these examples?

JESSE:

Whoever puts bad things in my water, I will make the water move too much and their boat will break.



IAN:

I blow strong, I can be fast and slow. I am cold!



AMBRIA:

I, Ambria, will turn into a giant and will throw leaves into the air. If anyone tries to chop me down, I'll move over to the farmer's barn to protect myself from the lumberjacks. If apples grow from me, people can pick my apples.

ZYQUAVIOUS:

I am cold. I am white. People can play with me. I am fun. You can make things with me.



FELIX:

I grow in the summer a lot. I do not grow in the winter. I have to be cut a lot.

DESTINY:

I have long arms. I grow in the spring. I grow bananas on me. I am standing with my friends.

SHYANN:

I am out every day. I shine on the ground and keep you warm. I am hot like pizza and hot like a ring of fire, but people still play in me!

JAMISON:

I am heavy. I am sturdy. I am useful and strong but can still be broken down.



A Message from our School Counselor

Greeting Panther Parents! This is a final reminder that student wellness surveys will close on April 2, 2021, next week will be the last week that students can take the survey if they wish. Students are allowed to take this survey at home during Spring Break with your assistance. Thanks in advance!

And to all of my Panthers, enjoy your break!

Mr. Burch

GEORGIA STUDENT WELLNESS SURVEY (Grades 6-12) PASSIVE PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM

The Student Wellness Survey is an anonymous, statewide survey instrument that was designed to collect data on student wellness during the current school year. The Student Wellness Survey contains 33 questions and covers various topics such as school climate and safety, bullying, alcohol and drug use and mental health. All student survey data is anonymous and self-reported.

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) gives you the right to opt your child out of participating in the survey. If you **do not** wish for your child to participate in the Student Wellness Survey, please sign and return this form to the school by _____. If you would like to examine the survey, please come by the school between _____ and _____, and we will be happy to provide you with a copy for your review.

DO NOT return this form if your child can participate in this survey.

Please sign this form and return it to school by _____
if you do not wish for your child to participate.

I would prefer that my child NOT participate in the Student Wellness Survey.

SCHOOL _____

STUDENT _____ **GRADE** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Thank you for your participation.



GAB Long Sleeve Hoodie



Men's Long Sleeve Hoodie

Youth Small \$20	Youth Med \$20	Youth Large \$20	Adult XS \$20	Adult S \$20	Adult M \$20	Adult L \$20	Adult XL \$20	Adult 2x \$23	Adult 3x \$23	Adult 4x \$23

Women's Long Sleeve Hoodie

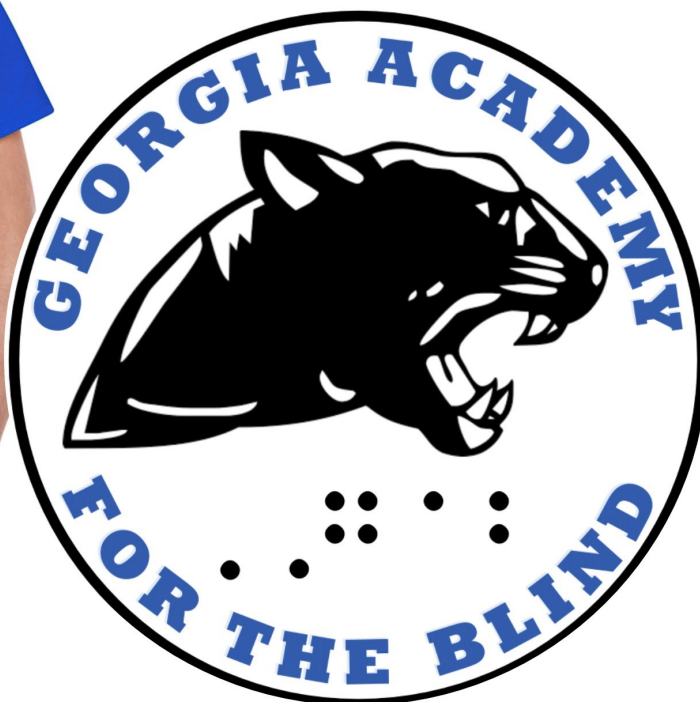
Youth Small \$20	Youth Med \$20	Youth Large \$20	Adult XS \$20	Adult S \$20	Adult M \$20	Adult L \$20	Adult XL \$20	Adult 2x \$23	Adult 3x \$23	Adult 4x \$23

Name

Total



GAB Logo T-shirt & Decal



Short Sleeve T-shirt										
Youth Small \$12	Youth Med \$12	Youth Large \$12	Youth XL \$12	Adult S \$12	Adult M \$12	Adult L \$12	Adult XL \$12	Adult 2x \$15	Adult 3x \$15	Adult 4x \$15
Name					Total					

GAB Decal 4 inch	
Quantity	X \$2.00 each
Name	Total

We welcome cash or checks. Make checks payable to GAB.

March

Birthdays

3/4 Zy

3/23 Harry

3/9 Kameron

3/28 B.J.

3/13 Jess

3/29 Sammy

3/14 Destiny B.

