



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, April 28th, 2023

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



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Georgia Academy for the Blind

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Mark your Calendar

5/5 - National School Lunch Hero Day

5/11 - Spring Musical in the Auditorium at 10:30 & 6:30pm "Junie B. Jones Jr. the Musical"

5/8 through 5/12 - Teacher/Para Appreciation Week

5/12 - School Council Meeting with Special Guest Corlice Atkins, Estate Planning for Special Needs

5/18 - Prom Night at GAB "Hollywood"

5/25 - Graduation at GAB 

6/11 through 6/16 - Summer Program at GAB

May 5 we will be celebrating national school lunch hero day! Just want to give a shout out to all our nutrition staff here at GAB for the wonderful job they do in providing our students with nutritious meals. Let's all celebrate our school lunch heroes!

**SCHOOL LUNCH
HERO DAY**

First, on behalf of the coaches, let me say thank you to everyone who watched the live stream! Your texts and emails of encouragement and congratulations made our athletes feel so appreciated!

In SCASB's first ever goalball competition, both our girls and boys teams made it to the finals! Both teams fought extremely hard and used every last bit of grit they had and left it all on the court. While we didn't take the gold, both our teams walked away with silver medals and a tremendous sense of pride. We are so proud of our **GAB Panthers!**



A message from our Superintendent

Dear GAB Family,

Can you believe that in less than a month our students will be gone for summer break? This year has flown by and on May 25, 2023, 11:00 a.m., Reynolds Auditorium, we celebrate sixteen graduates including 4 Project Search graduates. It will be one fine day! Middle Grades testing takes front and center this week, and End of Course testing next week! Our focus on English Language Arts curriculum adoption and implementation and math support will surely pay off for our students!

What an experience we had with the Critter Fixers Vet for a Day crew! Dr. Hodges and Dr. Ferguson had all our students mesmerized! A huge thank you to the Critter Fixers Event Planners and leadership of Alicia Jackson, Principal of Transition!! Many hands make the work light. This was an experience of a lifetime for our students. ... "petting" a bearded dragon and discussing CinnaBUN's eye condition "Blue Moon" as preparing for his ASPIRE sharing!! D. Carter has a soft spot for CinnaBUN! Landon Francis thought the bearded dragon was pretty cool! Drs. Hodges, Ferguson, and Houston wowed us beyond imagination. Following is the link to the Facebook reflection of our celebrities themselves! Please return the media release form for Nat Geo Wild so that footage with your child may be used for the show if selected.



D. Carter listening to CinnaBUN's heartbeat



<https://m.facebook.com/story.php?sto->

[ry_fbid=pfbid02MvaBi319RtiA1JUwsX4wjVQzMCPnu92KN3f6RiPCm2wFSdRYw39icR6YPZweGcril&id=100063572538272&mibextid=qC1gEa](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?ry_fbid=pfbid02MvaBi319RtiA1JUwsX4wjVQzMCPnu92KN3f6RiPCm2wFSdRYw39icR6YPZweGcril&id=100063572538272&mibextid=qC1gEa)

Trust the process! Today we have students working and learning at Critter Fixers in Bonaire. Goal in Progress ... GAB Doggy Daycare! If you have been following Ambria with Kirby, our very own facility dog, you know GAB students have the skills and GAB is the catalyst! Wait and Watch!! Thank you again to all who assumed the mantle to get this party started 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Nehemiah Rembert, Mary Pickman, and Mason Casteel received honors at Hutchings College and Career Academy. All three completed career pathways and stellar performance on End of Pathway Assessments. Ms. Jackson and Mrs. Kimbrough are exceedingly proud! These students are testimony to the strength of community partnership and customized Expanded Core Curriculum.

SCASB athletes stormed the meet last weekend. GAB was the smallest school with the fewest number of athletes. We are small, but mighty 🏆🏆🏆🏆 Both the Boys' and Girls' teams won second place in the Austin, Texas event!! We are so proud of our coaches and students.

Sonya Milam and Octavian Burch organized the Military Child celebration. We found out we have even more military children than had been reported! Our students left the meeting with a deeper regard for what it means to have a lifestyle of lengthy separation from parents on deployment or multiple moves and frequently having to say good-bye to friends and build a new circle of support. Sherry Grist and Cheryl Moore shared their personal reflections of military life.

All these events, especially those that require local and out of town travel, are expensive and cannot be funded by state or federal funds. We thank the Georgia Foundation for Public Education for funding college-related travel, dual enrollment, Project Search, Work-Based Learning (WBL) and disability specific travel experience. A huge thank you to the Community Foundation of Middle Georgia for funding SCASB events and additional instructional and cultural field trips. Your support is so much appreciated.

Pam Owens of the State Schools District Leadership Team visited the campus recently with the Teacher of the Year committee. She expressed congratulations on the many quality instructional experiences that she saw and said that although most of her work can be done remotely, it means something special to her to see onsite interaction among students, teachers, and colleagues! Again, District support is integral to school success.

Be sure to consult the calendar for the upcoming events and reach out if we can help you. I especially want to plug Mrs. Holloway and students' production of Junie B. Jones and the School Council meeting. Junie B. Jones is May 11 and 12. The School Council meeting is on May 12 and the featured guest is a professional who will speak on estate planning for those with disabilities.



As ever,
Cindy







PIC•COLLAGE





PIC•COLLAGE

Georgia Academy for the Blind

Presents

Junie B. Jones The Musical JR.®



Book and Lyrics by
Marcy Heisler

Music by
Zina Goldrich

Adapted from the JUNIE B. JONES Series of books by **Barbara Park**

Adapted from the books JUNIE B. JONES IS A GRADUATION GIRL, JUNIE B. JONES FIRST GRADER AT LAST!, JUNIE B. FIRST GRADER BOSS OF LUNCH, JUNIE B. FIRST GRADER TOOTHLESS WONDER and TOP SECRET PERSONAL BEESWAX, A JOURNAL BY JUNIE B. (AND ME)

by Barbara Park.

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For more about the Junie B. Jones books,
visit www.juniebjones.com or a bookstore near you!

Originally produced by Theatreworks/USA

Director
Catherine Holloway

Superintendent
Dr. Cindy Gibson

Junie B. Jones The Musical JR. is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International, New York, NY
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

Location – Reynolds Auditorium

Show times – May 11 @ 10:30 AM, May 11 @ 6:30

CAST MEMBERS:



Devin White



Heidi
Norman-Magee



Kayleigh
Littlejohn



Terrance Davis



Mary Pickman



Elisha Simmons



Veronica
Fleming-Slade



James Collins



Zyquavious
Fagin



Berkley Terry



D'Shaun Sims



Shayla
Hampton



Josie St. John



Jermaine
Hargrove



Zariyah
Bradford



Aubrey Garrett

SPRING MUSICAL AT GAB

Performance schedule: May 11 @ 10:30 am

May 11 @ 6:30 pm, May 12 @ 10:30 am



*Nehemiah Rembert and Mason Casteel are proudly displaying the CTAE Pins awarded to them in a Pinning Ceremony at Hutchings College & Career Academy. This ceremony held separately from graduation, signifies the passage of these pathway completers into the professional world of the career of their interest. Congrats to **Nehemiah and Mason!***

It's Kirby Time!

Written by Ambria Tharpe




A Picture of Ambria with Kirby

When you combine a WBL Student with a Therapy Dog? You get a Kirbtastic Duo! Last Thursday, Ambria is doing work with Kirby, GAB's Therapy Dog, while welcoming our Community Partners.



LOVE



HOLLYWOOD

GAB Prom 2023



WHO: GAB STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12

WHAT: HOLLYWOOD: A NIGHT WITH THE STARS

WHY: TO CELEBRATE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

WHERE:
GAB CAFÉ

DATE:
THURS. MAY 18TH

TIME:
7-9:30 PM

MAY 8-12TH

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

GAB is accepting donations to help show our teachers appreciation!

Our Theme is You are Mint to be at GAB!

The following are gift ideas:

Wrigleys Double Mint Gum

Mint Tic-tacs

Pkgs of Junior Mints

Life saver mints

Mint M&M's

York peppermint patties

Andes thin mints

Mint Tea Bags

Mint scent antibacterial hand spray/gel

Mint lip chap stick

Mint scented candles



We have around 70 Teachers and Para-professionals.

CONTACTS FOR DONATIONS

ALESIA BECHTEL: ABECHTEL@DOE.K12.GA.US

KIM SMITH: KISMITH@DOE.K12.GA.US

JENNIFER MINTER: JMINTER@DOE.K12.GA.US

GAB Families,

Please click on the link below or scan the QR code to take the survey.

This survey is for parents of students with an IEP. It helps give feedback about your child's education.

First Question: Answer— State Schools

Second Question: Answer—Georgia Academy for the Blind

[FY23 Parent Survey \(gadoe.org\)](https://gadoe.org/fy23-parent-survey)



Please click on the link below or use the QR code to take you directly to the survey:

Title I use of Funds survey (English)

<https://forms.office.com/r/kzf4FY169w>



Title I use of Funds survey (Spanish)

<https://forms.office.com/r/Bzmtf9njRk>



Summer Program at GAB

**For Students with Visual Impairments
Home Grown In Georgia**



June 11-16, 2023

Application Deadline: May 18, 2023.

Non-refundable Registration Fee \$25.00

(All applications subject to approval)

Ages 12-21

- ALL INFORMATION MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED AND LEGIBLE OR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR ACCEPTANCE.
- Students must have a documented vision loss that impacts their learning.
- Students must be Georgia residents and enrolled in school.
- Students must have the physical, mental, and behavioral capabilities to benefit from the programs offered.
- **Students will be dropped off on June 11 (Sunday) at 4:00 pm and picked up on June 16 (Friday) at 1:30 pm.**

For questions or more information, contact:

Dawn Day (478) 751-6083 x 1114 mday@doe.k12.ga.us copy Brittany Jackson
bjackson@doe.k12.ga.us

mail/fax to:

Georgia Academy for the Blind
Attention: Dawn Day/Summer Program
2895 Vineville Avenue
Macon, GA 31204

FAX Number: 478-752-1745



GEORGIA LIONS CAMP, INC.

5626 Laura Walker Road, Waycross, Georgia 31503-6488

Phone (912) 283-4320 Fax (912) 283-5130

Email: director@glcb.org www.glcb.org

Pre-Teens - 6/12 years old - June 25 - June 30, 2023

Senior Adults - 40+ years old – July 2 – July 7, 2023

Adults - 18/39 years old – July 9 – July 14, 2023

Teenagers - 13/17 years old – July 16 – July 23, 2023

Registrations to open on March 13, 2023 and all Applications to be completed by June 2, 2023

Visit www.glcb.org click on Camping Schedule-CampDoc Registration Link. Choose the session that is for you.

Camp Abilities Columbus

Camp Abilities Columbus GA at Columbus State University (CSU) is a non-profit (501c) organization for children that are blind or visually impaired. 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.** They will stay on Columbus State University's campus to engage in an array of sports and recreational activities in a safe and developmentally appropriate environment. Sports and recreational activities include: goalball, beep baseball, beep kickball, tandem biking, rock climbing, swimming, soccer, tennis, track & field and team building activities. Camp Abilities Columbus GA will be held **May 26 - May 29, 2023.**

Contact Us

Contact Jeanine Fittipaldi-Wert at wert_jeanine@columbusstate.edu for information regarding camp registration & volunteer infor-

CAMP ABILITIES



COLUMBUS, GA

“A LOSS OF SIGHT, NEVER A LOSS OF VISION.”

GenCyber Cybersecurity Summer Camp

For High School Students with Visual Impairments



- No Cybersecurity Experience Needed
- Free for All VI Students
- All Meals & Lodging Provided
- Transportation Assistance



June 4 –9, 2023
Huntsville, Alabama
The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Apply:

tinyurl.com/gencyber2023vi

Contact:

GenCyber@uah.edu



Alabama Institute
for Deaf and Blind
Deaf Blind. Limitless.



CATT

CENTER FOR ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY TRAINING



AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE



CENTER FOR CYBERSECURITY
RESEARCH & EDUCATION

PART
OF THE University of
Alabama System

2023 S.E.E. Camp H2O YMCA Camp Hanes, King, NC | Contact Chris Flynt at cflynt@ifbsolutions.org or 336-245-5620

Registration is now open! Click the camp name above for more information about activities, eligibility, and registration.

Sunday, June 18 - Friday, June 23, 2023

Free | Co-Ed Residential | Rising 7th - 10th grade

S.E.E. Camp H2O is an overnight camp for kids who are blind or visually impaired, and who are looking for a traditional camp experience. Camp Hanes offers a wealth of activities—from climbing and kayaking to archery and ropes courses—and we'll do our best to keep things challenging, accessible, and fun. This will be a blended camp: S.E.E. Campers will have their own cabins, counselors, and schedule, but will also join in some activities with campers with typical vision

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

GET READY

for Opportunities in Work

(GROW)

Come join us for a week-long employment exploration experience! While enjoying activities on our campus at Roosevelt Warm Springs and living in our dorms, you will engage in activities that will prepare you for your goals after high school.

Activities Include:

- Tour post-secondary programs in our community
- Visit the seven Career Pathways offered at RWS
- Learn about CASAS testing for Juniors and Seniors
- Develop a Transition Resource Toolkit
- Participate in cookouts and recreational activities
- Complete Vocational Assessments to determine your strengths and interests
- Tour community industry virtually and in-person

Dates Available:

June 5-9

June 12-16

June 19-23

June 26-30

July 10-14

July 17-21



Basketball Court



Camp Dream Lake



Bowling

GVRA



ROOSEVELT
WARM SPRINGS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GVRA FIELD COUNSELOR
1-844-367-4872

May Birthdays

Taryn 5/1

William 5/20

Mary B 5/4

Heidei 5/20

