



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, April 7th, 2023

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



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Mark your Calendar

4/6 - Spring Plant Sale Starts, details on page 3.

4/10 - Easter Holiday



4/12 - Spring Festival between cottages 7 & 8 from 5- 8pm.

4/13 - Senior Trip

4/18 through 4/24 - SCASB Track & Field and Goalball in Austin Texas

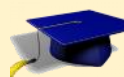
TBA - Spring Musical in the Auditorium at 10:30
"Junie B. Jones Jr. the Musical"

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

5/25 - Graduation at GAB



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

A message from our Superintendent

Dear GAB Family,

Going, Going, Gone! Thank you for your support of the GAB Plant Sale! The money earned goes right back into supplies for the Horticulture Department, and Mr. Blackwell encourages that we who can, return the plastic pots so that they can be reused. The plant production represents Expanded Core Curriculum and vocational skills for our students, and is a service that is a staple for spring time rites of refurbishing our home places! Student success under splendid professional leadership!

We look forward to “A Magical Evening Celebration” Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. GAB is a CLOSED campus. That means that only authorized non-staff and non-student visitors may come on this campus. Staff may bring family members who will be under their supervision, and student families with appropriate documentation are invited. Maintenance personnel will supervise Gates 2,3, and 5, and we will have two security officers. Pictures of visitors and their identification will be taken at the gates. Visitors will be instructed to go to Gate 2 and park in the back. To protect from embarrassment and to ensure safety, please abide by these expectations. Thank you to our talented Residential Advisers for leading this family event! We’ll do it up the GAB Way!

Kim Smith, Media Specialist, announces that GAB has been awarded the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture GROWMARK Pollinator Garden Grant of supplies, seeds, lesson plans, resources, and educational signage to go in the garden. Enough seeds for a 700 square foot area! Ms. Smith and Mr. Blackwell will work with students on this project as we celebrate Georgia’s largest industry – AGRICULTURE!

Work-Based Learning (WBL) students began working at Critter Fixers in Bonaire, GA, this week and will continue to work there each Tuesday. Oh, the things they'll see that they would never know from K-12 schools



without our Community Partners Dr. Hodges and Dr. Ferguson! Shortly you will receive information about Critter Fixers and Disney being on the GAB campus for a segment of Season 6 of National Geographic's "Critter Fixers: Country Vets." Season 5 will return for an all-new season on the Nat Geo Wild channel in the United States on April 8, 2023, with all episodes from the fifth season releasing on Disney+ in the United States on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Praises to Alicia Jackson, Principal of Transition, for leading this project.

Apply early for the GAB Summer Program: Home Grown in Georgia , **June 11-16, 2023**, Application deadline: May 18, 2023, registration fee \$25.00. Reach out to Dawn Day, Principal of Curriculum and Assistive Technology, for additional information.

And now it's off to the links! Another springtime rite – **The Masters!**

More later. . .

As ever,

Cindy





The annual GAB greenhouse plant sale will begin Thursday, April 6th and run through the following Friday. The hours will be 7:30-4 M-F.

Cash or check only, please make checks out to GAB.

To keep plant prices down in the future it will be much appreciated for any pots from our plants to be recycled for use in future sales. They can be left at the greenhouse or outside the gate.

Thanks for supporting the GAB greenhouse!

Keith Blackwell

blackwell@doe.k12.ga.us



Polka Dot Plant



Zebra Plant



Coleus



Angel Wing Begonia

Holidays	First and Last Day for Students
Regular School Days	Open House
Graduation TBA	Professional Learning

2023								2024							
Jul-23								Jan-24							
Work Days: 7 School Days: 0 21-31 Pre-planning/ PL	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 21 School Days: 20 1 Holiday 15 MLK Holiday
							1								
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
30	31							28	29	30	31				
Aug-23								Feb-24							
Work Days: 23 School Days:22 1 Open House 2 First Day of School	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 19 School Days: 19 16 Holiday 19 President's Day Holiday
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	31			25	26	27	28	29			
Sep-23								Mar-24							
Work Days: 20 School Days: 20 4 Labor Day Holiday	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 20 School Days: 20 29 Holiday
						1	2						1	2	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Oct-23								Apr-24							
Work Days: 20 School Days: 17 9-13 Student Fall Break 9 & 10 Staff Holidays (10 mo.) 11-13 GVEST PL	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 17 School Days: 17 1-5 Spring Break
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	5	6	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	29	30	31					28	29	30					
Nov-23								May-24							
Work Days: 17 School Days: 17 20-24 Thanksgiving Holidays	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 22 School Days: 18 Graduation TBA 24 Last Day of School 27 Memorial Day Holiday 28-31 Post Planning/ PL
				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	26	27	28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	31		
Dec-23								Jun-24							
Work Days: 11 School Days: 10 15 PL 18-Jan.1 Winter Holidays	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 3 School Days: 0 3-5 PL
						1	2							1	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
31							30								
Sem 1 Total: Work Days =98; School Days = 86								Sem 2 Total: Work Days = 102; School Days = 94							

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

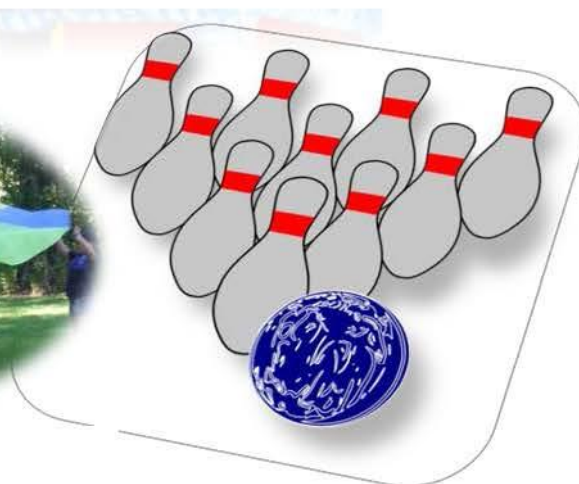
“Magical Evening Celebration”

Hello Parents

Please come out and enjoy an evening of fun, food and entertainment with your child and the GAB family.

When: Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Where: GAB Campus> Between Cottage (7) & (8)



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)



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.



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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**

April

Birthdays

Bentlee	4/2	Jeferson	4/15
Pierce	4/2	Dillion	4/17
Caden W.	4/4	Jamauri	4/17
Camden	4/5	Ashlyn	4/21
Landyn	4/11	Magestic	4/27

