



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

May 17, 2019 **GRADUATION EDITION**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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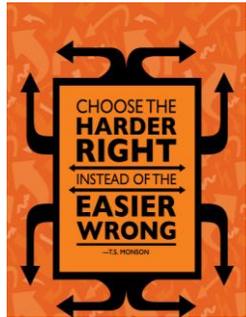
Georgia Academy for the Blind - GAB



Follow our library:
@gab_library

Last day of school countdown: **5** more DAYS!

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=lRrbhkGSe98>

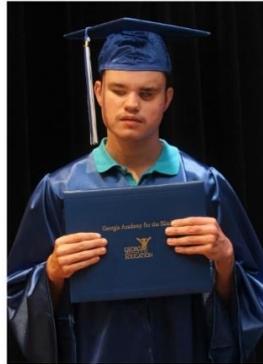
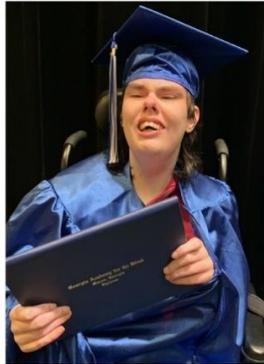


Mark Your Calendars

May 24: Last day of school

August 4: Registration Day

August 5: First day of school



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

Character

Education

Decisiveness – the ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions. “Start right where you are, with the very next question you face.”

Napoleon Hill

Congratulations Class of 2019! We are proud of you and all your hard work!

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 Ms. Milam is available to our families throughout the summer. **Please remember to contact us if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!**

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

School's Out!

POWER UP for Summer Fun!



Did you know there are free activities and meals available in your community for your kids and teens this summer?

Find a site near you!

.....

Call: 1-866-348-6479
 Visit: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks
 Text: "Summer Meals" to 97779

No cost or enrollment required.
 Open to all children under 18.



U.S. Department of Agriculture | Food and Nutrition Service | FNS-490 | January 2018
 USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Second Announcement from Ms. Knight to high school families: We've sent home letters about high school credits and next year's classes. Please read, discuss with your child, sign and return on Monday.



Learn more and get involved! Read and/or watch this webinar to learn more about the **Bill of Rights for Children with Visual Impairments and their Families:**
<https://cosbvi.org/cosb-news/a-bill-of-rights-for-all-children-with-visual-impairment-and-their-families/>



ATTENTION FAMILIES! Our pool will be open next week for elementary students on Monday, middle school students on Tuesday and high school students on Wednesday!
Make sure to send swimming suits and towels (labeled with your child's name) t next week!



May Student Birthdays:

Mary Beth	May 4	Tyzie	May 19
Jordan W.	May 4	Heidei	May 20
Hope M	May 7	Austin	May 24

May Staff Birthdays:

Ms. Stokes	May 1	Ms. McDavid	May 6
Ms. Francis	May 3	Ms. Patterson	May 10
Ms. Neil	May 4	Mr. Jackson	May 22
Ms. Drinkard	May 6	Mr. Moore	May 24



Past Weeks in Pictures

(Below) More Special Olympics photos



Below: Art students dressed up in a kimono during a lesson on Japanese culture and the woodcuts of an artist named Hiroshige. Then they created their own relief prints and wrote haikus.



Auditorium & Natatorium Names Revealed

On Friday our entire staff and student body along with Ron Fuss, School Improvement Specialist with the Georgia Department of Education gathered in our newly renovated auditorium for a historical moment when the names of the auditorium and the natatorium were revealed. Our naming committee was chaired by teacher Alicia Jackson and comprised of staff: Patricia Edenfield, Julee Brown, Tracie Zabokrtsky, Tresha Little, Brittany Jackson, Sylvia, Williams, James Massey, Gwen Ridley. Students; Jartavius Primus and Joseph Maxwell. Family members: Pamela Slade and Randy Thomas. This committee submitted the names of Willie Frank Reynolds for the Auditorium and Ivan Glynn Watkins for the Natatorium to the State Board of Education where they unanimously approved these names. Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Watkins were further celebrated at our 2019 graduation on Friday, May 17 at 11 am. The following was read at last Friday's revealing ceremony:



Willie Frank Reynolds Auditorium: *For over 40 years, this special person has selflessly touched the hearts and lives of many of our stakeholders at the Georgia Academy for the Blind. One will never hear him speaking about himself or bragging about his accomplishments or the things he has done because everything he does is “under cover.” This person honors the birthdays of each staff member by placing a card in their box. He provides special dinners and treats for the students in the cottages. He ensures that our students have everything they need and will not hesitate to provide a financial donation where needed. This person also serves the community through various avenues including being a member of the Middle Georgia Regional Transition Council. His impact is far-reaching. To say that he is a “good man,” doesn’t even begin to do him justice. Having over 50 years of service to one entity, truly defines his level of commitment and love for people. It was an honor to select him to be recognized for his efforts in this manner.*



Ivan Glynn Watkins Natatorium *This young man has been teaching for 30 years. In 1984, he began volunteering with the Special Olympics while in college. This year marks his 35th year as a volunteer! His career as a teacher began teaching at the Department of Corrections. After 3 years, he began teaching in Bibb County where he remained for 17 years before coming to the Georgia Academy for the Blind. While working for Bibb County, he coached wheelchair basketball, handball and football, adapted track & field, middle school girls track, basketball and softball. His county-wide wheelchair basketball team won the Youth National Championship and three State Championships. That year, he was named ARC – Disability Organization Teacher of the Year. Since being at the Georgia Academy for the Blind, he has coached cross country, track & field, goalball and wrestling. The girl’s goalball teams placed 4th in the 2011 & 2017 nationals, while the boys team placed 4th in 2010 and 2nd place in 2016. He was also named GAB Teacher of the Year 2018.*



Creating a literacy-rich summer! Part 3



Dear Families,

Did you know your child has access to digital and audiobooks this summer if you have a device with internet? This can be a computer, phone, or tablet. Please see the links and FREE apps below to access these resources. Your child's user name and password have been sent home. You may also contact me for user names and passwords. Please contact me with any questions before May 30. Happy reading!

Kim Smith, TVI, M. Ed., Media Specialist kismith@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-751-6083, ext 1280



Introducing **SYNC**, a free summer audiobook program for teens 13+ is available for IOS®, Android™, Kindle® and Windows Phone®, as well as for Windows and Mac desktop platforms. <https://www.audiobooksync.com/>



Learning Ally Learningally.org Apple or android device: Learning Ally Link



Bookshare Bookshare.org, Apple Device: Capti App Android Device: Go Read App



Summer movies and educational programs: Streaming TV and Movies, DVDs, Interactive Media, Resources, and more from our friends at Described and Captioned Media Program. Subscribe by clicking here: <https://dcmp.org/>



Did you know that blind children in the U.S. and Canada can receive **three** free braille books per year!? Just register your child by clicking here or contact Sonya Milam paper application. <http://www.seedlings.org/special.php>



Here's a link where families can download free audiobooks from APH to a thumb drive or blank NLS cartridge to be played on an NLS player. <https://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/free-audio-books/download/#help>

2 more just added:



SUMMER OF READING
**3 MONTHS
FOR \$3**

<https://www.getepic.com/summer-of-reading>



And don't forget your **local library** for GLASS services, summer reading clubs, park passes and more! <http://pines.georgialibraries.org/pinesLocator/>



MORE Past Weeks in Pictures



Left: Ms. Applebee's middle school ECC class, "Outdoor Leisure and Recreation" enjoy Coleman Hill and Amerson River Walk in downtown Macon.



Below: Ms. Rushing's middle school ECC class, "Being a Tourist in Your Own Town" enjoyed the Allman Brothers Band Museum, "The Big House" in Macon's Historical Vineville District and an escape room, "Situation Room" in downtown Macon.



(Above) Students in Ms. Thompson's Environmental Science class grew, harvested and roasted potatoes.



(Right) A recent O&M lesson found this elementary student exploring one of the Magnolia trees on our campus and bringing back this bloom for all to enjoy.



Photos coming next week:
 Awards Day
 Project Search Graduation
 GAB Graduation
 Pool Fun & MORE!

Sports Banquet



