



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

**Friday, September 6, 2024**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

2895 Vineville Ave.

Macon, GA



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## Mark your Calendars

9/8 through 9/14 - Housekeeper  
Appreciation Week

10/3 through 10/5 - American Printing  
House Art Trip to Kentucky

10/4 through 10/6 - Goalball Tournament in  
Savannah

10/4 through 10/11 - Space Camp in  
Huntsville, AL

10/11 - First School Council meeting of the  
school year at 2pm.

10/14 through 10/19 - Fall Break for students  
GVEST for staff

**Dear Georgia State Schools Families,**

**It is with a heavy heart that we address the tragic events that occurred today at Apalachee High School in Winder, GA. Our deepest sympathies and prayers are with all those impacted by this senseless act of violence. In times like these, we are reminded of the sacred trust you place in us every day when you send your children to our schools. We do not take that responsibility lightly.**

**At Georgia State Schools, the safety and security of our students are our top priority. We are committed to creating a safe learning environment through a comprehensive approach that includes significant investments in security systems, state-of-the-art mass communication technology, exterior & interior access control measures. Each classroom is equipped with robust access control hardware to ensure the safety of our students and staff when in a lockdown situation.**

**Our staff members are thoroughly trained in various life-saving techniques including CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, Citizens Response to an Active Shooter Event (CRASE), and Intruder Response. We drill for a variety of emergency-related events on a regular basis. We maintain strong partnerships with local and state law enforcement as well as multiple emergency response agencies. By conducting regular safety drills and training alongside our community partners, we are prepared to respond effectively in any emergency.**

**We want to assure you that school safety remains at the forefront of all that we do. We are steadfast in our commitment to protecting your children and will continue to take every measure possible to keep our schools safe and secure.**

**Thank you for your trust and partnership as we navigate these challenging times together.**

***Elyse Ferrell***

**Operations Specialist**

**Facilities/School Safety/Residential Programs**

**Division of State Schools**

**Georgia Dept of Education**

**20th Floor Twin Towers East**

**205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive**

# *Encouraging Teamwork and Building Capacity, That's the GAB Way!*

Saturday, August 31, 2024, was the official kick-off day of college football season! At GAB, it is our yearly tradition to celebrate this most “Wonderful Time of the Year,” by having our annual “Biggest Dip” contest! During this time, our staff submits their best dip recipes for all to enjoy and a panel of judges decides who the winners are for the year. We also wear the paraphernalia of the college, professional, or high school teams we support thus displaying our pride for the sport, this time of the year, and the cohesiveness of being “team players.” How does this apply to what we are doing here at GAB as it supports our students? Well, the saying that “teamwork makes the dream work,” is very apropos when it comes to our staff at GAB. Being able to work together as a team provides the sealant required to address the varying needs of our students. Teamwork also teaches our students that when you work together, you can accomplish so much more, just like a football team! Teamwork also teaches students that while they are at GAB, they are not on this journey alone; they will always be surrounded by teachers and staff members who will support them while they are here and even after they graduate!



## **Team GAB!**

**Dip Contest Winners for a tie!**





TEAM WORK  
MAKES THE  
DREAM WORK





Speaking of teamwork, next week is Housekeepers Appreciation Week. Please join us in celebrating our team of housekeepers here at GAB. Under the supervision of Ms. Tiara Ackridge-Fields, our housekeepers work hard to ensure that our students and staff enjoy a safe, healthy, learning environment every day. Feel free to send thoughtful words of support to our housekeepers to let them know how appreciated they are by all stakeholders.

While fostering teamwork, we are also building capacity here at GAB! I would like to recognize and congratulate our very own Ms. Kezia Bloodsaw for completing the requirements to become a certified teacher! Ms. Bloodsaw has been with Georgia Academy for the Blind for 17 years, initially joining our team as a paraprofessional. After much encouragement from her colleagues and administration, Ms. Bloodsaw enrolled in and successfully completed the Teacher Preparation Program, (TaPP), this summer. Ms. Bloodsaw brings a wealth of knowledge to the profession and is truly an asset to **Team GAB!**



If you care to share, please feel free to send your stories and pictures regarding your own football traditions and how you celebrate this time of the year at home. What is your favorite team(s) and how does your family encourage teamwork?

Have a wonderful weekend and WAR EAGLE – **Go Panthers!**

**Alicia M. Jackson**  
**Superintendent**

## APH-American Printing House for the Blind



**Destiny and Zy started the school year off on a high note by being awarded a certificate and \$75 gift card each for tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the grades 10, 11, 12 category of APH's national Insight's Art Contest. They will both be honored at an awards banquet and exhibition in Louisville, Kentucky at the American Printing House for the Blind Conference.**



# September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>9</b> Beef Ravioli Sloppy Jo Rolls Seasoned Fresh Cabbage Honey Baby Carrots Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Granny Smith Apple Orange Wedges Fresh Red Grapes 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>10</b> Salisbury Steak Cheese Calzone Rolls Green Beans 1/2 Baked Potato Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Granny Smith Apple Mandarin Oranges 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>11</b> Chicken Tetrizzini Bacon Cheeseburger Garlic Bread Peas n Carrots Buttery Corn Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Granny Smith Apple Orange Wedges Fresh Strawberries 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>12</b> Personal Cheese Pizza Personal Pepperoni Pizza Chicken Wings Toasted Flatbread Seasoned Potato Wedges Steamed Broccoli Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Granny Smith Apple Orange Wedges 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>13</b> Chili w/ Grill Cheese Grill Chicken Club Buttery Corn Tater Tots Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Bananas 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)
<b>16</b> Oven Roast Chicken Country Fried Steak Rolls Mashed Potatoes Peas n Carrots Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Gala Apple Orange Wedges Fresh Red Grapes 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>17</b> BBQ Rib Sandwich Corn Dog Seasoned Green Beans Buttery Corn Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Gala Apple Mandarin Oranges 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>18</b> Spaghetti and Meat Sauce Crispy Chicken Sandwich Garlic Bread Baked Sweet Potato Honey Baby Carrots Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Gala Apple Orange Wedges Fresh Strawberries 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>19</b> Pepperoni Pizza Four Cheese Pizza Toasted Flatbread French Fries Mixed Vegetables Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Gala Apple Orange Wedges 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>20</b> Cheeseburger Chili Hot Dog Steamed Broccoli Baked Beans Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Bananas 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)
<b>23</b> Beef Ravioli Sloppy Jo Rolls Seasoned Fresh Cabbage Honey Baby Carrots Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Granny Smith Apple Orange Wedges Fresh Red Grapes 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>24</b> Salisbury Steak Cheese Calzone Rolls Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Granny Smith Apple Mandarin Oranges 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>25</b> Chicken Tetrizzini Bacon Cheeseburger Garlic Bread Peas n Carrots Buttery Corn Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Granny Smith Apple Orange Wedges Fresh Strawberries 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>26</b> Personal Cheese Pizza Personal Pepperoni Pizza Chicken Wings Toasted Flatbread Seasoned Potato Wedges Steamed Broccoli Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Granny Smith Apple Orange Wedges 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)	<b>27</b> Chili w/ Grill Cheese Grill Chicken Club Buttery Corn Tater Tots Carrot Sticks Celery Stick Applesauce Cups Bananas 1% Milk Milk, Chocolate (TruMoo) Milk, Strawberry Fat Free (TruMoo)
<b>30</b>				

Assorted Fruits, Milk, and Condiments are served daily.



**INSPIRING** STUDENTS WITH  
**VISUAL AND HEARING CHALLENGES**  
TO **"BE LIKE HELEN"**



**OCTOBER 3-5, 2024**



**FREE**



Camp Courage is a three-day program designed for students rising into the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades with visual and/or hearing impairments. This unique camp aims to:

- ★ Encourage and inspire children to develop greater confidence in their abilities.
- ★ Form lifelong connections with other students across Alabama.
- ★ Create a vision for their future.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- THE MIRACLE WORKER CAST'S PERFORMANCE OF ANNIE'S ARRIVAL AT IVY GREEN.
- ARTS, CRAFTS, AND MUSIC.
- SPECIAL PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIP TO 20TH CENTURY FARM, DISCUSSIONS, AND MORE!
- MEAL AND HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS FOR ALL

**SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE:**

- UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA PRESERVICE TEACHERS SPECIALIZING IN SPECIAL EDUCATION AS CAMP COUNSELORS
- HELEN KELLER FELLOWS AND SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

**SCAN  
ME**



Visit Our Website   
[www.helenkellerbirthplace.org/camp](http://www.helenkellerbirthplace.org/camp)

*Helen Keller*  
**IVY GREEN** 300 North Commons West  
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674 



# September 2024 Birthdays

Destiny R. 9/7

Tyson 9/20

Lucas W. 9/7

Sahni 9/27

Matthew 9/15

Aubrey 9/27

