



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

January 19, 2018

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Georgia
Academy
for the
Blind - GAB

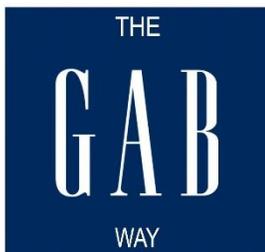
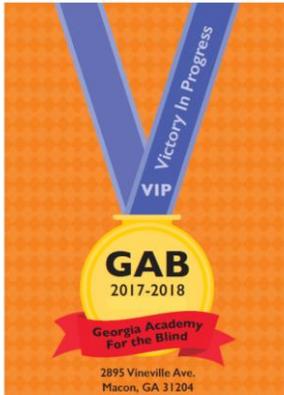


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Mission Statement: The Georgia Academy for the Blind provides quality education services to Georgia's students with visual impairments and/or visual impairments in conjunction with other disabilities to prepare them to achieve their highest level of independence in transition to college and career readiness.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- January 19 – 21 SCASB Wrestling and Cheer Competitions, Fine Arts Show Case at Oklahoma School for the Blind. Follow them this weekend on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/Georgia.Academy.for.the.Blind/>
- January 25: Art Students exhibit at Goodwill's Artist Show, details page 5
- January 29: Monday Media Mania and EECC Coffee Club
- February 2-3: GaDOE's Family Engagement UnConference, Macon
- February 13: EECC Valentines Dance, Media Center
- February 19: Presidents' Day Holiday
- February 28: Braille Challenge - - Programs for parents/guardians are planned!
- March 26-30: Spring Break
- April 2: Easter Holiday
- April 5: Prom
- April 19-22 SCASB
- April 26-29: Senior Trip
- May 1: Help a Child Smile Mobile Dental Clinic
- May 25: Graduation



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

Join us in thanking Mr. Frank Reynolds, who has been honored for his commitment to Georgia AND education!

We previously reported on the surprise visit from State Schools Director Dr. Kenney Moore and State Board of Education Mike Long on December 1 as the entire GAB staff honored Mr. Frank Reynolds on the anniversary of his 40th year at the Georgia Academy for the Blind.

On Thursday, January 11, The State Board of Education recognized Mr. Reynolds as longest serving state employee for 50 years, 40 of those at Georgia Academy for the Blind. He was presented with a flag flown over the Capitol, a certificate of recognition from both State Superintendent of Schools Richard Woods and Governor Nathan Deal. Says GAB Superintendent, Dr. Cindy Gibson: "Congratulations to Frank Reynolds, a person of high ideals and a joy to know and love!"

Celebrating Mr. Reynolds!



With Mr. Reynolds at the State Board of Education Meeting at the Georgia Department of Education are Board Member Mike Long, State School Superintendent Richard Woods, Board Member Scott Johnson, Dr. Gibson, and Dr. Moore.



~5th Devoneta

~10th Shakira

~14th John

~15th Johnny

~23rd Morgan

~24th Dente

~24th Destiny G.

~25th Destiny I.

~30th Sydney

~31st Jamari

Second survey from GaDOE is out! Parents/Guardians, Please Assist Us With All 3!



Call on
Sonya Milam if you need
any help!

Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us

478-262-3303

1 Georgia School Climate Parent Survey. This online, anonymous survey only takes about 5 minutes to complete and is your opportunity to provide feedback to GAB and the Georgia Department of Education. Georgia Parent Survey is important because the data will be used as part of the calculation of the **School Climate Star Rating**. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. Results from the Georgia Parent Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online. The Georgia Parent Survey link is posted below. The survey can be found at: <http://gshs.gadoe.org/parents> *The first line asks for School System. Here you scroll down to STATE SCHOOLS, not your county! You will then be prompted to choose Georgia Academy for the Blind.*

2 Georgia Special Education Services Parent Survey. This online anonymous survey with 10 questions also takes only 5 minutes to complete. It is available to all Georgia's families who have a student with a disability. This survey helps the state determine parents' perception of the success of parent engagement between them and schools. Georgia is required to conduct a parent survey collection process to measure parent/family perceptions. The information is gathered as a component of the **State Performance Plan, Indicator 8: Percent of parents with a student receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving results for children with disabilities**. The data collected is reported as a percentage of parental involvement in the **Annual Performance Report** for each district. This survey can be found here: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Parent-Survey.aspx> *When prompted to select district, choose STATE SCHOOLS, not your county! You will then be prompted to choose Georgia Academy for the Blind.*

3 ASPIRE Parent Survey. This survey is conducted each year to determine parents' satisfaction in and involvement with Georgia's student led IEP program. Whether you attended your child's IEP on campus or on the phone, if you didn't complete this survey afterwards, please take a few minutes to do so now!
<https://goo.gl/oGU3oc>



5th Annual Middle Georgia Conference

“Mapping a Self Determined Future: Where Transition Meets Real Life”

Saturday, January 27, 2018

8:30-1:00 PM (Conference and breakfast will begin promptly!)

Bibb County School District’s Professional Learning Building

2007 Riverside Drive

Macon, GA 31204

This free one day conference that comes with breakfast is designed to allow teachers, families and students with disabilities to come together to dream of the possibilities for a full life after graduation. There will be a youth leadership track, a college bound track and a career/community track.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

<https://tinyurl.com/MGRTC2018>

Let
Sonya Milam know
If you need
with these



Middle Georgia Families! Baseball Season at Miracle League of Macon is now accepting registration applications. Go to:
<http://www.mlmacon.org/Forms/PlayersReg2018.pdf>

★ Help others stay informed! Families throughout Georgia: Remember to share your community resources with Sonya Milam to help get the word out to other families! smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303



Calling all collectors: We need you to please send in your collection of Box Tops. We are approaching our goal of 1,000 Box Tops. **Remember the person who sends in the most in January gets a surprise.** Thanks for all the hard work. We will try and start a total for each month and let you see the progress. Sylvia Layson 478-751-6083 ext. 1200

slayson@doe.k12.ga.us



This Week in Pictures



[Above] SNOW DAY FUN AND LEARNING!



[Above] Chorus rehearsing for the Fine Arts Showcase at SCASB

[Right] GAB's Shakira Farley, a member of State School Superintendent Richard Woods' Student Advisory Council had a meeting at the GaDOE on Tuesday. Shakira collaborated with other middle school students from all over Georgia.



[Below Right) The council then toured the State Capitol and met with members of the State Senate and House of Representatives during their visit.

[Below] A few SCASB participants awaiting their flight to Oklahoma on Thursday





Follow us at SCASB this weekend on Facebook live!
<https://www.facebook.com/Georgia.Academy.for.the.Blind/>



Goodwill & Wesleyan College present monthly
FOURTH THURSDAY ARTIST RECEPTION January 25 | 5-7 pm



GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND

Georgia Academy for the Blind, located in Macon, GA, one of state schools. It was founded in 1852 to serve the needs of Georgia's students with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities. Because all the art students have visual impairments, most projects are tactile.

SHOW DATES
JAN 25 — FEB 21

MONDAYS - SATURDAYS 9 AM - 7 PM
SUNDAYS 12 PM - 6 PM



4560 Forsyth Rd Macon, GA 31210

During the reception enjoy music by Chance Moorman, Senior at Mount de Sales Academy. She is a singer, songwriter and musician who regularly volunteers with GAB.



WESLEYAN

Interested in becoming a featured artist?
Contact Brandi Hartness, bhartness@goodwillworks.org

Give us your feedback! This newsletter is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor. For comments and suggestions and news items please contact her at 478-262-3303 or smilam@doe.k12.ga.us

