



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

October 6, 2017

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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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! * just added



October 8: Zumba Dance Party 4 p.m. in GAB's gym

October 12: *Flu vaccines

October 14: Georgia PINES Family Fun Day in Macon, 10 am -1 pm

October 12-14: APH Insights Art Exhibit, Louisville, KY

October 16-20: Student Fall Break

October 22 Blind and Beyond Radio Show

November 5 Daylight Saving Time 2017 ends! Turn your clocks back one hour

November 9: Senior Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction & *Old Book Sale

November 10: School Council Meeting, 1:00 pm

November 16: South Fulton Drop in RPM (Regional Parent/Guardian Meeting) 5:30-7:30

November 20-24: Thanksgiving Break

December 21: Winter Student Music Program and Art Show.

Meetings before and after. *Hustler Raptor Mower Raffle Winner chosen.

Family

December 22- January 5: Winter Holiday

March 26-30: Spring Break

April 2: Easter Holiday

April 5: Prom

April 19-22 SCASB

April 26-29: Senior Trip

May 25: Graduation

October Birthdays

3rd Jordan L.

13th Kayleigh

5th Jordan P.

20th Jayla

9th Angelica Hu.

20th LaShayla

24th DaShia



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK! This newsletter is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor. Give her your news and suggestions. smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303



The Georgia Academy for the Blind is pleased to announce that students **Shakira Farley** and **Nikki Smith** have been selected to serve on **Georgia State Schools Superintendent Richard Woods's Student Advisory Board**. Students are selected for one-year terms based on the merit of their applications and participate with other middle and high school students, learning democratic process and the business of public schools' governance. **Dr. Gibson** explains: "We are so excited for our students to experience this leadership opportunity with their peers from all over the state. Thank you to **Toni Kimbrough**, **Lauren Eckman**, and **Amy Bardash** for guiding the application process. "

Character Education

Word for the Quarter: **RESPONSIBILITY** – Taking care of self and others; to carry out a duty or task carefully and thoroughly.

Words for the week: **CIVILITY** – Polite and courteous behavior towards others in words and actions.

Civility costs nothing, **and** buys everything. - **Mary Wortley Montagu**



Media Center News!

STEM PROJECT WINNERS for September's No Teach STEM tower building challenge were **Mary Beth Pickman** and **Ashlyn Smith**! Congrats! Their tower was the tallest and strongest. It was built using only tape, note cards, and their imaginations!

DON'T FORGET! Updates about the media center can be found on GAB's Media Center twitter [gab_library](#)



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





Orientation and Mobility Words for the week:

Landmark – something distinct and permanent that is always in the same location making it a reliable point of reference.

Clue – something that is usually present such as a sound or a smell that provides a hint to where one is. Clues are helpful but not always reliable as is a landmark.

Tip for the Week: Encourage and help your child to recognize and use **landmarks** and **clues** for way finding.

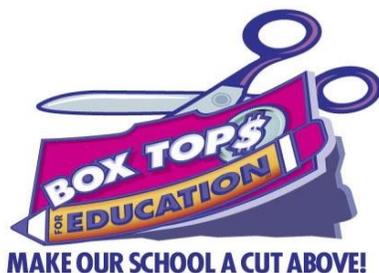
We are pleased to announce GAB's Teacher of the Year for 2018! Mrs. Melanie Thompson



Melanie Thompson began working with students with disabilities at thirteen years old through a summer camp for students with disabilities and at-risk youth. It was during these years that she found her love for serving and mentoring others. After high school she went on to earn an Associates of Science from Georgia Military College in Education before transferring to Georgia College State University's Special Education program. It was under the leadership of Dr. Cara Smith at GCSU, that she realized she wanted to eventually pursue a career in post-secondary education, teaching future teacher candidates. After graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Special Education, she gained employment at the Georgia Academy for the Blind, and has since received a Master's degree in Visual Impairment. Mrs. Thompson has been a middle and high school teacher at GAB for the past nine years and has taught a variety of language arts, sciences, social studies, and math courses. She has been on committees such as transition, media, Work Base Learning, Project Based Learning, and a senior class advisor.

What she enjoys most about her job is seeing her students grow in maturity, independence, confidence, and skill from year to year. She takes great pride in their accomplishments and enjoys sharing her love for learning new things and experiences with her students. When she is not at GAB she enjoys kayaking, traveling the country for good BBQ, singing in her church choir, and spending time with her husband and two children.

Congratulations Mrs. Thompson!



PLEASE HELP!

October 25 is approaching soon --- only 3 weeks away! We are approaching a deadline to send in our box tops! We need your help to collect at least 400 box tops before October 25. We spend the funds given from box tops on field trips. Send in any box tops NOW, don't wait to get a bundle. Thanks for your help. Ms.

Layson, slayson@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-751-6087, ext 1200



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THIS SUNDAY!!!PROM FUNDRAISER!
Zumba Dance Party



October 8, 2017, 4:00 pm
Georgia Academy for the Blind Gym
Instructor: Janice Shepherd, IAmFitness Founder
GAB Contact: Lauren Eckman (478-751-6083)
\$10 Donations Requested

Senior Class Fundraiser  Calendars **now** on sale! They are \$8.00 each and contain a free menu item each month. Supplies are limited, so see a senior class member or staff member to order today!

Mr. Collins, mcollins@doe.k12.ga.us, or Mrs. Thompsen, mthompson@doe.k12.ga.us



Senior Class Lawnmower Raffle Tickets **now** on sale!
Win this **Hustler Raptor SDX 23hp Kawasaki 54 inch Mower** donated by **Vidalia Small Engine Services** to be given away December 21. Contact a member of the 2018 Senior Class or Sonya Milam to buy your raffle ticket. Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us

Senior Fundraiser Dinner Tickets now on sale!
Thursday, November 9, 2017
Serving: 5:00- 6:45, Carry begins at 4:30 in the GAB Cafeteria



ENTREES: Chicken Divan with salad OR roast beef with green beans
mashed potatoes OR veggie lasagna with salad. Dessert & drink included

Catered by **TOMMY'S**

The evening includes

- ~Silent Auction
- ~Old Book Sale
- ~Student Entertainment



Get your tickets today from a member of the senior class or Dr. Gardiner:
mogardiner@doe.k12.ga.us



Fish, gators, snakes, oh my!

Above, right and left. Last week, elementary students enjoyed a day of learning at **Go Fish Education Center** in Perry where they explored Georgia's diverse aquatic wildlife in their natural habitats.



Right: Congratulations to high school student **Crystal Hase** for winning a **Dunkin Donuts** gift cards by answering correctly a trivia question while she was a guest on **Blind and Beyond Radio Show** last week.



Above: On Thursday, we celebrated National Walk to School Day by walking around our school!

