



# Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

December 8, 2017

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent  
2895 Vineville Avenue  
Macon, GA 31204  
478-751-6083



Georgia  
Academy  
for the  
Blind - GAB

www.gabmacon.org



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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!

### December 12: Student parties

December 21: Winter Student Music Program and Art Show. **FOURTH REMINDER:** Remember that the Music Program only will take place at nearby Vineville Baptist Church 2591 Vineville Ave, Macon, GA 31204 (.5 miles east of GAB). Art Show, Family Meeting (see page 2), 3D Printer Exhibition, and student dismissal will be at GAB's Hendricks building. Students will be dismissed from GAB only! All activities over at 1!

December 22- January 5: Winter Holiday

January 8: Second semester begins

February 2-3: GaDOE's Family Engagement UnConference, Macon

February 28: Braille Challenge

March 26-30: Spring Break

April 2: Easter Holiday

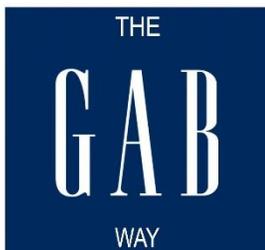
April 5: Prom

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

## December Birthdays

~ 5<sup>th</sup> Joshua

~11<sup>th</sup> Caiden, Kaleb & Jartavius

~16<sup>th</sup> Adria

~22 Kiauna



~25 Shyann

~26<sup>th</sup> Dani & Seth

~29<sup>th</sup> Blake & Jermaine

~31<sup>st</sup> James & Logan

# CRITICAL FAMILY MEETING!

## Support After High School *FOURTH REMINDER*

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities to Present at the Georgia Academy for the Blind following Winter Music Program

Thursday, December 21 from 11:15 am-12:15 pm  
Georgia Academy for the Blind, Hendricks building  
2895 Vineville Avenue, Macon, GA

Presented by:  
Catherine Ivy, LCSW and Nicki Wilson, MPA  
Family Support Managers for DBH/DD

Do you have a child age 10 or older who has a developmental, intellectual or mental disability? Will you need support after graduation?

Immediately following the Winter Program, come learn of the services provided through the Waiver programs that assist with a wide range of services including **employment options**, help with **activities of daily living, building life skills, therapies, respite care** and other supports designed to promote **independence** and **inclusion**.

Also learn about the other flexible services offered by the **Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities** such as **Family Support Services** and specialized resources.

These programs are designed to keep Georgia residents in their homes and included in their communities.

At this presentation you will get your questions answered and learn how to apply for these free services.



\*Light refreshments served and a door prize awarded

\*So that we will have ample seating and materials, you must rsvp!  
[smilam@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us), 478-262-3303

\*You will also be introduced to our GaVRA Counselor and our Parent to Parent Transition Partner with our E3 Program (Explore, Engage and Employ)



## WAIVER WORKSHOP *Georgia's Medicaid NOW and COMP waiver programs* FEATURING HAPPY HOUR ASSOCIATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

DECEMBER 12, 2017

4:00 P M - 5:30 P M

PRESENTED BY BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM'S PROGRAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL, 1775 WILLIAMSON ROAD, MACON 31206

For more information, contact Chanda Crawley at 478-779-4500 or [chanda.crawley@bcsdk12.net](mailto:chanda.crawley@bcsdk12.net)

**Middle Georgia Families, grades 8-12: Save this date!** "Mapping a Self-Determined Future: Where Transition Meets Real Life" will be back in Macon, **January 27, 2017**. You don't want to miss this interactive day with other students and families preparing for life after high school!





# making a list and checking it twice....



Second notice: Register here for your child to receive a Brailled letter from Santa who is being helped by our friends from NFBs Jernigan Institute! Deadline is approaching! <https://nfb.org/santa-letters>

OR



Here's a newly found second resource on getting a letter from Santa. This one has no age limit and you can choose large print or Braille. Act fast! <https://brailleworks.com/santa-reads-braille/>

## SERVICE LEARNING

Student Council is sponsoring two projects:

1. **Canned Food Drive** We are collecting canned foods and any nonperishable items like mac-and-cheese and ramen noodles. These goods will be donated to a local organization that benefits those in need.
2. **Pet Supplies Collection** We need gently used or new blankets, canned dog food, and kitten food. These items will be used to help keep pets warm and fed at the local "All About Animals" shelter this winter.

Students, parents, staff and friends please help us with these projects. The collection boxes will be located in the Multi-Purpose Room. These projects will continue until the last day of the semester, December 21st.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** The students in Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Lynch's EECC classes packaged several boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Each box is filled with school supplies, grooming items, water bottles, collapsible backpacks, small tools, and socks. The boxes are shipped around the world and will provide deprived children with much needed items. Most of the children who receive the shoe box gifts live in very desperate conditions. The GAB students learned that it is truly more blessed to give than to receive by packaging the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.



# Student Survey

## Parents, take note!

An important Student Survey is scheduled to begin. Read this important information from our School Social Worker and turn in this form **ONLY IF YOU WISH FOR YOUR CHILD TO NOT PARTICIPATE!**

**SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS and COMMUNITIES SURVEY PASSIVE PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM** In order to provide the most effective drug and violence prevention resources and/or activities for your child, the **Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program** collects survey information from students at various grade levels during the school year. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete, is totally anonymous and voluntary, students have the right to “opt out”, and asks for responses that pertain to student involvement in substance abuse, violent situations, school climate and nutrition. The data collected will be used to identify critical areas of need for our Safe and Drug-Free Schools efforts. Survey analysis of these data provides information/data that:

- Meets the **No Child Left Behind Title IV** mandated data collection requirements;
- Assists in the maintenance of a school environment that is free of drugs and violence;
- Promotes a classroom atmosphere that allows teachers to teach and students to learn; and
- Develops and offers experiences that involve students in applying the concepts of making healthy decisions, accepting responsibility for behaviors, and understanding consequences.

Our desire is to involve parents in the education of their children. If you **do not** wish for your child to participate in this important activity, please sign and return this form to the school by **December 15**. **If you would like to examine the survey, please contact School Social Worker, Rosemary Knight [rknight@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:rknight@doe.k12.ga.us) or 478-751-6083 extension 1284** and she will be happy to provide you with a copy for your review.

**DO NOT return this form if your child can participate in this survey.**

Please sign this form, and return it to school by **DECEMBER 15, 2017** **only if you do not wish** your child to participate.

I would prefer that my child NOT participate in the *Safe and Drug-Free Schools Survey*.

**STUDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your participation.*

**Parents/guardians, stay tuned! We will showcase the Georgia Parent Survey just for you at our Winter Program!**



# This week in pictures

(Right) Ms. Bechtel's class visited a local tree farm then Santa's Winter Wonder Land at Bass Pro Shop!



(Below) Mrs. McDavid's class rehearsing for Winter Program with Mrs. Holloway.



(Above) Mrs. McDavid's class at Bass Pro Shop



(Left) Monday was the grand opening of GABWILL! This was an idea of two students who successfully completed last year's Dress for Success class and wanted a way to obtain affordable clothing for themselves and their peers. In addition to clothing, GABWILL has housewares, shoes, toys and Christmas decor. It will be open Tuesday-Thursday 7:45-8:10 am and 3-4 pm. for students, staff, families and friends to shop. Prices are .50 cents - \$10. As always, visitors to our campus must sign in, wear a visitor's sticker and be accompanied by GAB personnel. Donations will continue to be accepted.



# FUNdrai\$ers



**HO! HO! HO! Please think about helping us get some \$DOUGH, \$DOUGH, \$DOUGH \$\$\$\$\$\$\$**

We have collected 160 of our goal of 1000 General Mills Box Tops labels within a few weeks. That is \$16.00 toward our field trips. Thanks to all for participating including staff: Layson-53, Barfield-15, Bain-67 and students: Jordan W.-13, Stephen -9. Remember to check your products for these labels. Each label is worth .10. Check out this list of participating products here! It's more than food items!

[http://www.gabmacon.org/files/EGBdS/82b3641074067f1d3745a49013852ec4/BoxTopsParticipating-Products-Flyer\\_mar2015.pdf](http://www.gabmacon.org/files/EGBdS/82b3641074067f1d3745a49013852ec4/BoxTopsParticipating-Products-Flyer_mar2015.pdf)

If you have any questions contact Sylvia Layson at [slayson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:slayson@doe.k12.ga.us) or call after 3:00 P.M. 478-751-6083 ext 1200. Thanks for all your help!

**Senior Class Lawnmower Ticket Sales ends in less than 2 weeks! Winner Announced December 21**



Make a donation of at least \$10 and get a chance to win this **Hustler Raptor SDX 23hp Kawasaki 54 inch Mower** donated by **Vidalia Small Engine Services**. Contact a member of the 2018 Senior Class or Rachel Towery, [rtowery@bellsouth.net](mailto:rtowery@bellsouth.net), 912-403-9302

**Give a gift that gives all year!**



**Senior Class Chick-fil -A Calendar Sales Continue**

They are **\$8.00** each and contain a free menuitem each month. Supplies are limited, so see a senior class member or staff member today order Mr. Collins, [mcollins@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mcollins@doe.k12.ga.us), or Mrs. Thompson, [mthompson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mthompson@doe.k12.ga.us)

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](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us)

