



# Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

February 23, 2018

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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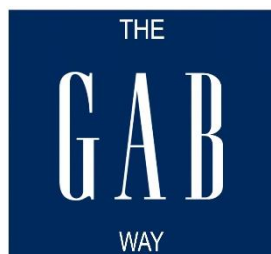


Georgia  
Academy  
for the  
Blind - GAB



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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.



Give it your best  
Achieve your goals  
Be respectful

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS \* just added

\*February 26: Monday Media Mania and Coffee Club  
February 28: Braille Challenge! (See page 2 for details of parent/guardian program)  
March 23: Spring Program (See page 3 for details)  
March 26-30: Spring Break  
April 2: Easter Holiday  
April 5: Prom  
\*April 10: Special Olympics  
April 9-20 Elementary and Middle Milestones  
April 19-22 SCASB  
April 26-29: Senior Trip  
April 30-May 11 High school End of Course Milestones  
May 1: Help a Child Smile Mobile Dental Clinic  
May 14-18: Milestones' Retests for grades 3, 5 and 8  
May 25: Graduation

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

### Remaining February Birthdays:

24<sup>th</sup> Kayla & Dorrian

26<sup>th</sup> TJ

### March Birthdays:

4<sup>th</sup> Zy

27<sup>th</sup> Angelica L

9<sup>th</sup> Kameron

28<sup>th</sup> BJ

23<sup>rd</sup> Harry

29<sup>th</sup> Sammy

## Character Education

### PERSEVERANCE!

We're watching a video series about how students can develop a growth mindset! Watch it at:

[www.classdojo.com/BigIdeas](http://www.classdojo.com/BigIdeas), and ask your child these questions over the weekend: 1. What is "the dip"? 2. Discuss an example of a time you've felt the dip. How did it feel? 3. How does what we've learned about growth mindset help us get out of the dip?

Learn more about our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program by visiting:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-andAssessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Positive-Behavioral-Interventions-andSupport.aspx>

**Parents/Guardians: Join us to learn about Georgia Industries for the Blind, Project Search, Summer Camps, Vocational Rehabilitation, Parent to Parent of Georgia and an inspiring key note speech!**



Georgia Regional Braille Challenge 2018, the Georgia Academy for the Blind  
Parent/guardian Program Blind (an Outreach Program of GAB)



GAB Media Center

February 28, 2018

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

9:30- 9:50 Welcome

- Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor, Georgia Academy for the Blind, “Emcee” for the day
- Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent, Georgia Academy for the Blind
- Zelma Murray, State Side Vision Consultant, Georgia Department of Education
- Hayley Alli, President, Georgia Organization of Parents of Blind Children (GOPBC)

9:50—10:10 Project Search – Ms. Alicia Jackson, Mr. Reginald Evans, Ms. Sydney Brooks and Mr. Angel Lopez

*5 min break, door prize giveaway*

10:15--- 10:45 Luis Narimatsu, Services Director, Industrial Engineer Georgia Industries for the Blind

*5 min break, door prize giveaway*

10:50-11:10 Mike Williams, Lions Club Camp for the Blind

11:10-11:30 Scott Little , acting Program Director Camp Dream

*5 min break, door prize giveaways*

11:35 – 12:00 Cindy Crawford, Parent to Parent of Georgia

12:00 - 1:15 LUNCH on your own

1:15 – 1:45 Keynote Address Shirley Robinson, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Assistant Director, Blind Services. ***Growing Up Blind: Growing Through Challenges – I did it, so can your child***



We are over the top with excitement with a delivery of 500 box tops from the Middle Georgia Alumnae of Delta Gamma. We are on round two of our goal for a thousand more by the end of the school year. We are half way there now! Keep them coming! Sylvia Layson, 478-751-6083 ext. 1200  
[slayson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:slayson@doe.k12.ga.us)





## A note from Mrs. Holloway



Greetings from the GAB music department!

We will be having our Spring Program on Friday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the location of the Spring Program will be at Vineville Baptist Church, a half mile east of GAB at 2591 Vineville Avenue Macon, GA 31204

Students will be transported to and from the church by bus.

Parents are to check their child out at the school and not take them from the church. We want to make sure all students are safely and securely transported back to the school after the program. Per Dr. Gibson, if you are signing your child out before the 1:00 p.m. end of the day, sign out in the Hendricks office. See Shirley Bronner and Brittany Jackson.

This is a mandatory performance, and all students will receive credit for the performance. The students are very excited about this performance opportunity. I hope you will be able to join us to support GAB and our music department! Thank you for your patience and your ongoing support to help the students be successful!

*From Mrs. Milam: Before and after the performance, at GAB you can browse the Art Show, see 3-D printer exhibition, learn about reading resources for your home and get a snack from GAB Café. There will be a very important parent meeting afterwards at the school "Discover Summer Camp Opportunities". All activities will conclude at 1:00.*

### Introducing GAB's new Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Diane Elliott



If you wish for your child to see Dr. Elliot, simply contact our School Social Worker, Rosemary Knight, (478)751-6083 Ext. 1284 [rknight@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:rknight@doe.k12.ga.us)  
Dr Elliot graduated from the University of South Florida with a PhD in Clinical Psychology. She also practiced in Virginia before moving to Georgia. Although she works with all ages, her special interests include development, child and adolescent therapy, and psychological testing. In recent years, she was Director of Clinical Training for the newly developed Clinical Medical Psychology Program at Mercer, and Discipline Head for Psychiatry in curriculum development at the Mercer University School of Medicine, where she currently is Associate Professor, Clinical Education. She has a private practice at Ingleside Counseling Resources in Macon. Dr. Elliott is excited to become part of the team at Georgia Academy for the Blind (GAB) and looking forward to meeting with students and staff.



**Attention Atlanta area families!** An email went out about upcoming Transition Fairs. Check your mail boxes next week and listen out for a phone call from our Parent to Parent Transition Partner, Cindy Crawford!



# This Week in Pictures



Right and Left: Ms. Eckman's World Literature class is studying Literature of India. In order to gain more cultural knowledge, they listened to traditional and contemporary pop India music, did some Bollywood dancing and sampled some India cuisine as shown here.



(Below) On Tuesday, recipients of GAB's William Ford Fine Arts award enjoyed an evening at a concert of Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Fickling Hall of Mercer University's Townsend School of Music. Afterwards we got on stage to learn of the different string instruments! We appreciate these great neighbors!





# More of This Week in Pictures



(Left) Zack and Lauren Thomas visited Mrs. Yaughn's *Real World Money* After School Program class and Mrs. Kimbrough's WBL-GABWILL class on Wednesday. Zack is visually impaired and runs a vending machine business, including ours at GAB. Lauren works with him and provides assistance as needed. The students enjoyed their story and the exemplary lifestyle they lead of never giving up. There can be a success story for each of us. The Business Enterprise Program (BEP), a unit of Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation agency provides business management opportunities for eligible and qualified people to become licensed blind vendors so they may operate various food service and vending operations throughout the state.

(Right and Below) Tuesday, the *Real World Money* After School class with Teresa Yaughn and the WBL-GABWILL class visited retired GAB Media Specialist Rebecca Carpenter's store, *Yarn Love* and Hayleigh Watson's store, *Southern Charm General Store*. The students learned what is needed to begin a clothing/novelty store, the steps involved, the day to day running of each store, how to order merchandise, and how merchandise is positioned for the best sale. Students asked many questions and left there with gained knowledge that may assist them in job opportunities in their future.



(Below) We are forging a relationship with Rebuilding Macon in an effort to afford our students opportunities for community-based learning and the chance to participate in giving back to the local community that gives so much to them. Thursday, six students- 2 middle school and 4 high school – painted a large new wheel chair ramp for elderly man. This was coordinated by Shakira Farley for a required project as member of this year's Georgia Department of Education's Student Advisory Board.



BEFORE

AFTER





Parent/guardian surveys continue

Your voice matters and we want to hear from YOU! Please take a few minutes and complete these three quick surveys from the Georgia Department of Education. Sonya Milam stands ready to assist you!

1

**Annual 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.*

ta 2 **Annual Georgia Special Education Services Parent Survey.** This online anonymous survey with 10 questions also 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 **Annual 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>

**Special Education State Advisory Panel Needs a GAB Parent/Guardian!** The Georgia Department of Education Division for Special Education Services and Supports is currently accepting applications for the State Advisory Panel for Special Education (SAP). The SAP is comprised of parents, persons with disabilities, educators and administrators who are knowledgeable about the education of all children. SAP members provide input and advice into meeting the statewide needs of students with disabilities. Deadline is March 19, 2018!

More information and the application can be found here: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/SAP/SAP%202017-18/SAP%20Letter%20and%20Application%202018-19.pdf>





**Yes**, it's only February! **No** it is not too early for summer camp registration to begin!

Scholarships and spaces are limited so act now!

*Come to the Braille Challenge Parent/Guardian Program and/or our meeting after the Spring Program to meet with these folks and learn more! Contact Sonya Milam with questions and/or assistance with registration process. [smilam@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us)*

478-262-3303



**JUST IN!!!!** Just for high school students! Envisioning Youth Empowerment (EYE) Retreat, July 14-21, Raleigh, NC

The mission is to expose participants to college transition activities through mentoring, real work experiences and identification of support services. To learn more, and to register, go to <http://www.eyeretreat.org/>



Visit their website where you can watch a video and learn more:  
<http://www.campdreamga.org/>

### **THIRD NOTICE! Camp Dreams 2018 Camper Session Dates**

- July 15th – July 18th (Sun. - Wed.)
- July 19th – July 22nd (Thu. - Sun.)
- July 23rd – July 26th (Mon. - Thu.)
- July 27th – July 30th (Fri. - Mon.)

Contact Sonya Milam for more information including how to register and how to apply for a scholarship!



Visit their website and watch a video here:  
[https://hpex.columbusstate.edu/camp\\_abilities/index.php](https://hpex.columbusstate.edu/camp_abilities/index.php)

### **THIRD NOTICE! May 25 - 28, 2018**

Camp Abilities Columbus GA at Columbus State University (CSU) is a non-profit (501c) organization for children that are blind or visually impaired. Camp Abilities Columbus, GA is a residential camp that will be open for a maximum of 16 campers, ages 9 to 18 years old who are blind or visually impaired. They will stay on Columbus State University's campus to engage in an array of sports and recreational activities in a safe and developmentally appropriate environment. Sports and recreational activities include: goalball, beep baseball, beep kickball, tandem biking, rock climbing, swimming, soccer, tennis and team building activities.

### **FIFTH NOTICE: Announcing the Georgia Lions Club Camp for the Blind's 2018 SUMMER SCHEDULE**



Session 1	June 10-15	Family Camp (ages 5-9)
Session 2	June 17-22	Pre-teen (ages 6-12)
Session 3	June 24-29	Older Adults (ages 35-up)
Session 4	July 1-06	Young Adults (ages 18-34)
Session 5	July 8-15	Teenagers (ages 13-17)

**Deadline line for completed applications is April 21!** You may get a paper application or learn how to register and how to apply for a scholarship by contacting Sonya Milam, or go to <http://www.glcb.org/>

