



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

March 23, 2018

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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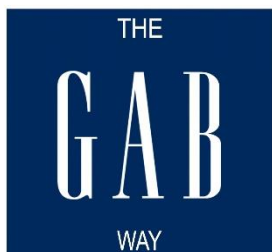


Georgia
Academy
for the
Blind - GAB



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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

March 26-30: Spring Break
April 2: Easter Holiday
April 5: Prom
April 10: Special Olympics
April 12 Spring Festival 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
April 9-20 Elementary and Middle Milestones
April 19-22 SCASB, Thompson Stadium, 1210 Shurling Dr, Macon, GA
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 17: Community Partners Recognition Day ***new time 10:30-11:30 am**, Media Center
May 24: *Awards, 10 am, Parent/guardian meeting afterwards
May 24: Project Search Graduation, 4 pm at Navicent Health
May 25: Graduation, Wesleyan College's Porter Auditorium, 4760 Forsyth Road, (3.2 miles west of GAB)



Remaining March:

27th Angelica L

28th BJ

Kevin

2nd Pierce

4th Caden W

7th Marquez H

APRIL

12th Taylor

17th Dillon

18th Frankie

21st Eugene

21st Ashlyn

26th Marquez C

27th Majestic

30th Joseph

Character Education

PERSEVERANCE: Working hard without giving up. Our classes are discovering that many of their favorite musicians, athletes, and other stars all went through "the dip" and that they, and we, can achieve success by persevering through challenges. During spring break ask your child who they learned about and how this person showed perseverance. Share a time in your life when you had to persevere. 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>

This Week in Pictures



(right and left) These middle school art students of Mrs. Applebee created self-portraits in pottery and turned them into pendants.

POTTERY
PORTRAIT
PENDANTS



(Right) Middle school classes enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at Macon's Cherry Blossom Festival where they put their **O&M traveling skills**, and **ECC money management and dining skills** to work! 14 hands on **STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math)** activities were the highlight of the day!



Week 2 of Lunch in the Library

Students displaying good behavior during the week will have their names entered in a drawing. Each week 3 names will be drawn from elementary, middle and high school. Their names will be announced on Thursday's news. They will go to the front on the line and take their lunch to the library. This week's winners were:

Elementary – Josie, Berkley and Roni

Middle – Kayleigh, Shakira and Felix

High – Jayla, JaQavious and Crystal





Ways to step back



It often feels right to give help to our children with visual impairments, but this may not be in their best interest.

Use this list to help yourself know when to **step back**:

1. You're **stepping back** so your child can step forward and become independent. Keep your child's future in mind. Even though helping can feel right, and be more efficient, be aware that too much assistance is short-sighted. Sometimes less is more, less is better.
2. Clock how long it actually takes for your child to start zippers, pick up dropped items, spread condiments on bread, etc. What's a few more seconds in the grander scheme?
3. Sit on your hands for a while task while you practice giving verbal instead of touch cues. Hands off the hands! If you do need touch cues, use hand-under-hand instead of hand-over-hand. This gives your child much more choice and the feeling of self-accomplishment and self-worth.
4. Allow your child to make mistakes. It's part of the human learning experience.
5. Teaching independence is hard work! Acknowledge your own needs and take time for yourself.
6. Sit or stand a little further away. If you have been within arm's reach, go just within earshot. If you have been within earshot, go across the room or to the next room.
7. Pat yourself (and your child) on the back every time you see your child doing something independently.
8. Catch yourself before you correct your child's schoolwork. Don't cover for your child. School is about their skills...not yours.
9. Teach your child to decline unnecessary assistance. An example phrase might be, "Thanks but please let me try it by myself." Role play this together.
10. Collaborate with other adults to help you to break the habit of helping too much, including speaking for your child. Agree that they can remind you to **step back**.
11. Keep open lines of communication with your child's teachers. Let them know you are their partner in equipping your child's independence. Let them know the tasks your child can do on their own at home and your expectations of continuing these independent tasks at school. Ask what your child is doing independently in the class and do the same at home.

Adapted with permission from *Classroom Collaboration*, by Laurel J. Hudson, Ph.D. (Perkins School for the Blind)



Building Literacy

Let's Play READO!

READO ... It's just like BINGO! You do five activities in a line --across, up, down, or diagonally!

Return your completed READO sheet to your first period teacher and a prize awaits you from your Parent Involvement Coordinator! Student's name _____ Date: _____

Parent's signature _____ Teacher _____

R	E	A	D	O
Read a poem to a family member	Listen to a family member read a story.	Bring a library book home and read to a family member	Read a story and talk to a family member about the main character.	Make up a scary story and tell it to a family member.
Listen to a family member tell a story about something they remember about school.	Read a story with a family member. Compare yourself to a character.	Read a story. Tell your family member about the story's setting.	Select a book. You read a page then your family member reads a page. Take turns reading to each other.	Read two pages in a book to a family member showing great expression.
You read a story. Think of 5 words to describe the story.	Talk with a family member and make a prediction about a story you are reading.	FREE	Read a story together. Discuss and create a new title for the story.	Read a story with your family. Talk about what you and they liked about the story.
Read a non-fiction story with a family member. Tell 2 facts you learned from the book.	Make up a story during dinner. Each person at the table needs to add a part to the story.	Read a story together. Have your family member to describe 5 words in the story.	Have a family member read an interesting newspaper article to you. Retell the article in your own words.	Read a story by yourself.
Make a prediction about a story before reading it. Discuss your prediction.	Read a story and talk about the main characters.	Read a story. Ask someone to describe the illustrations to you.	Help a family member write a grocery list.	Listen to a family member tell something that happened to them. Then you retell the story in your own words.

(Adapted with permission from Georgia School for the Deaf • Title I School)



Parent/guardian surveys continue! **ONE DOWN, ONLY 2 TO GO!**

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.

DONE! THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!

2 Annual 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 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>

Spring Break is the perfect time to sign up for Summer Camp! Sonya Milam is available during the break to help! 478-262-3303, smilam@doe.k12.ga.us

FINAL NOTICE! DEADLINES ARE APRIL 6!



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.)

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

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)





Mystery Theatre Presents: The Case of the Missing 300 Box Tops

If everyone “springs” into action by the end of May, we can reach our second goal of 1,000 more Box Tops. We have only 300 to go. The proceeds go to help fund our field trips. The **clue** to finding Box Tops is to look on items you buy such as cereal boxes, can goods, frozen items and even office supplies. These box tops hide in the funniest places.

Click here for a list of participating products:

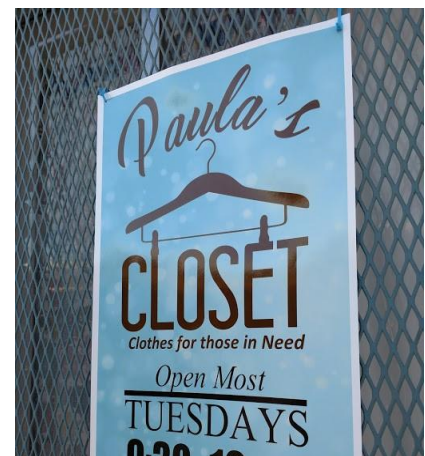
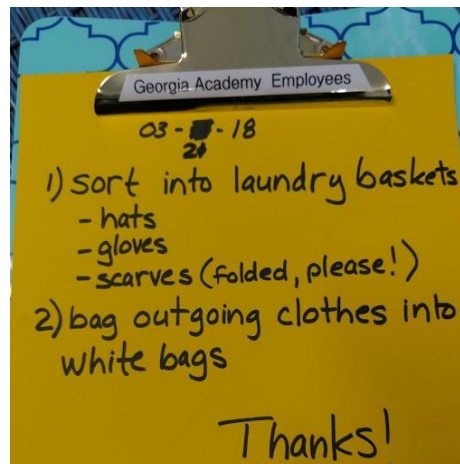
http://www.gabmacon.org/files/EGBdS_82b3641074067f1d3745a49013852ec4/BoxTopsParticipating-Products-Flyer_mar2015.pdf

Get them to GAB before they “spring” into the trash can unnoticed.

More of this Week in Pictures

(Below) Exciting times in Work-Based Learning (WBL)

We want to introduce you to our newest jobsite -- “Paula’s Closet”, which is a part of Macon Outreach. What a great opportunity for our students!



GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK: Panther Press is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor. Please send your suggestions, news and resources to her at smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303

