Mission Statement: The Georgia Academy for the Blind will provide 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. Success! Nothing Less!

February 20: Presidents’ Day Holiday
February 27: Track practice begins
February 28: Mardi Gras Celebration

March 14: “Drop in RPM” Bibb County
March 24: Student Art Show and Spring Music Program
March 27-31: Spring Break

April 4-6: Milestones Testing: Elementary and Middle English/Language Arts
April 6: High School Prom
April 10-11: Milestones Testing: Elementary and Middle, Math
April 12 – 13: Milestones Testing: Science and Social Studies (5th grade only)
April 17: Easter Holiday
April 18: Special Olympics
April 19 – 24: SCASB in Texas (Track and Field)
April 25-26: Milestones Testing: High School, English/Language Arts.)
April 27 – Milestones Testing: High School, Math
April 26: Help a Child Smile Mobile Dental Clinic
April 27-30: Senior Trip
May 2-3: Milestones Testing: High School, Science & Social Studies
May 15: Mother’s Day Holiday
May 26: Last day of school and Graduation

Don’t forget! Our Student Council is still collecting canned goods for local food bank and change for local animal rescue center! Don’t forget the Senior Class Yeti Cooler Raffle on March 24. Get your tickets today by contacting Sonya Milam smilam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-262-3303

Panther Press is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor. Send news and suggestions to smilam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-2-2-3303. Student Editor is Caleb Burdette.
**Character Education**

Word of the quarter: **TOLERANCE** Respective the individual differences, views, and beliefs of other people.

Word of the week: **FORGIVENESS** Benefiting yourself and other by ceasing to feel resentment towards others.

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Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

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February:

- Javon ~ 2nd
- Brian ~ 6
- Stephen ~ 6
- JaQavius ~ 7th
- Aschmid ~ 11th
- Daquan ~ 15th
- Bobbie ~ 15th
- Ambria ~ 18th
- Roni ~ 22nd
- Dorrian ~ 24th
- Kayla ~ 24th
- TJ ~ 26th

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**This Week In Pictures**

**Dinner fit for a Queen!** These female residential students enjoyed helping in the planning and preparation of the evening meal on Valentine’s Day.

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Beautiful roses for a talented pianist! Senior student Britany Locklear was presented roses from a local artist, Brian, who shares his visual art talent with the community at Macon Outreach at Mulberry just as Britany, through her Work-based Learning opportunity, shares her musical talent with the same community. Robin Freuschkorn with Macon Outreach said that this was a great way to say “Thank You” to Britany for the cheer she brings to so many each week.

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Leah Streams, Caiden Evans, and Nikita Duckworth were GAB guests for an off-campus fine arts event as a part of the William Clisby Ford, III Fine Arts Series. The students attended the “Let It Be” Concert (a tribute to the Beatles) at The Grand Opera House in Macon on February 15th. These are exemplary students selected by their teachers to participate in this the second in the series of three events for this school year. A great time was had by all!
SPECIAL EVENTS FOR OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES GRADES 8 AND UP!

MIDDLE GEORGIA FAMILIES:

Mapping a Self-Determined Future
“Where Transition Meets Real Life”
March 4, 2017: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Anderson Conference Center, 5171 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon, GA 31206

A one-day conference designed to allow teachers, families and students with disabilities 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. Tickets are free. You must register here: https://tinyurl.com/jr6r8lb Refreshments served!

ATLANTA AREA FAMILIES:

All 8th Grade and High School students parents and guardians from State Schools are cordially invited to AASD’s

“Creating Bright Futures”
Transition Workshop
Saturday, February 25
10:00AM – 12:00PM

Atlanta Area School for the Deaf
890 No. Indian Creek Drive, Clarkston GA 30021

Come to learn and take steps towards a smooth and successful transition for your child.

This hands on workshop includes representatives from:

- AASD’s Transition Team
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- All About Developmental Disabilities
- Social Security Benefits Navigators
- Disability Link
- Parent to Parent of Georgia

~Free Event! ~Spanish interpreting will be provided. ~Coffee and light refreshments will be served. ~Childcare is not provided.
Yes, you saw that right! It is time to register for camps!

Camp Dream is for students with multi disabilities in Warm Springs. Registration is now open! For more information and to register, go to: http://www.campdreamga.org/summer-camp/

Camp Abilities is for students ages 9 to 18 years old who are blind or visually impaired.

May 26-29, 2017. Students will stay on the campus of Columbus State University to engage in an array of sports and recreational activities in a safe and developmentally appropriate environment including: goalball, beep baseball, beep kickball, tandem biking, rock climbing, swimming, soccer, tennis and team building activities.

More information: https://hpex.columbusstate.edu/camp_abilities/index.php
To register, send email to: wert_jeanine@columbusstate.edu

JUNE 4-9, 2017 BlazeSports All-Star Camp is a fun, week long, overnight summer camp for students ages 7-17 with a physical disability, including visual impairments, a chance to learn and play a variety of adaptive sports and recreational activities.

More information and to register: http://www.blazesports.org/what-we-do/camps/blazecamp/ thomas@blazesports.org

Georgia Lions Club Camp for the Blind

June 11-16, 2017 (ages 6-12)
July 02-07, 2017 (ages 18-25)
July 10-16 (ages 13-17)

Register by calling 912-283-4320
888-297-1775 (GA Only) or by emailing secretary@glcb.org

July 24-28 8 am-3pm
Contact Erin Willis (229) 630-8612 erin.willis@bellsouth.net

*Scholarship information to attend NFB National Convention July 10-15 in Orlando can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/331066810353777/permalink/1089442011182916
Track Practice will begin on **Monday February 27 2017**. Practice days are **Monday thru Thursday**.

We will use the following schedule:

**Boys**:
- Mon & **Wed.** 5:00 to 5:45
- Boys: Tue. & **Thu.** 5:45 to 6:30

**Girls**
- Mon. & **Wed.** 5:45 to 6:30
- Girls Tue. & **Thu.** 5:00 to 5:45