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 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 478-262-3303. Student Editor is Caleb Burdette.
Character Education
Word of the quarter: **TOLERANCE** Respectful of the individual differences, views, and beliefs of other people.

Word of the week: **COOPERATION** Working together for a common purpose.

Liberty and justice will come, because cooperation and good will among free people will carry the day.”
~ Ronald Reagan

This Week In Pictures

Braille Challenge 2017

Short Course Weekend: “Grooving and Moving”
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!

We are pleased to let you know of Camp Dreams’ 2017 Camper Session Dates:
July 15th – July 18th (Sat. - Tue.)
July 19th – July 22rd (Wed. - Sat.)
July 23rd – July 26th (Sun. - Wed.)
July 27th – July 30th (Thu. - Sun.)

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/

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/ stthomas@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

* BELL (Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) Day Camp  July 24-28  8 am-3pm
Contact Erin Willis (229) 630-8612 erin.willis@bellsouth.net

**ATLANTA & SAVANNAH DATES COMING SOON!!

*Scholarship information to attend NFB National Convention July 10-15 in Orlando can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/331066810353777/permalink/1089442011182916
Two great opportunities to give your feedback to the Georgia Department of Education. (GaDOE)

Important Information for Families

Why are you being asked to complete TWO Statewide Surveys?

The first survey helps determine our School Climate Star Rating. We know that children’s learning is greatly impacted by the climate in which they learn. Our teachers, students AND parent/guardians’ feedback is critical to know how we are doing and what climate star rating we will receive from the state. All parents in all school in Georgia are asked to complete this survey. It contains 24 questions and parents have indicated it has taken less than 5 minutes to complete. This climate survey can be found here: http://apps.gadoe.org/schoolclimate/parents.nsf/Survey.xsp

The second survey is just for parents/guardians of children receiving Special Education services in Georgia. In order for all students to graduate prepared to achieve a lifetime of success, families need to be an important part of the school team. It is critical that the GaDOE assist us in partnering with families to raise the achievement rate for students with disabilities. Completing each of these surveys will assist in achieving this goal. It measures the satisfaction of parents/guardians. It contains 10 questions and it has been reported to take only 5 minutes to complete. This parent satisfaction survey can be found here: http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Parent-Survey.aspx

On each of these surveys, for DISTRICT, scroll down to STATE SCHOOLS. You will then see GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND drop down on the list of the three State Schools.

Who do you contact for help with completing the survey? Your Parent Mentor, Sonya Milam stands ready to assist you! Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-262-3303

Click below to learn of some great activities you can do at home to help with Braille reading and writing. If you would like to have us produce braille labels to send home so you can label items in your home that will help with both reading and daily living skills, email Sonya Milam a list of words you would like to have brailed onto label tape. smilam@doe.k12.ga.us

http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/newsletter/ideas-try-home-braille-writing-and-tactile-bucket