



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

March 17, 2017

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 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!

March 20-24: Scholastic Book Fair, GAB Media Center. You can also order and sign up to volunteer here:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=gabmacon&appesp=CPT/ib/20120101//txtl/FairFindertoHomepage>

March 24: 10 am ~ Student Spring Music Program. ~Student Art Show and Scholastic Book Fair before and after.
~Parent/Guardian Informational Meeting and Yeti Cooler winner announced immediately following. See page 2 for details!

March 27-31: Spring Break

April 4-6: Milestones Testing: Elementary and Middle English/Language Arts

April 6: High School Prom **PLEASE NOTE: Packets were sent home! Pay close attention to the deadlines!**

April 10- 11: Milestones Testing: Elementary and Middle, Math

April 12: Residential Life's Spring Festival. 5-8:30 pm. Open to All students and parents/guardians

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 (see note below!)

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



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful



Don't forget! Forms for Make a Child Smile on April 26 are **due by MONDAY March 20!** If you need another one, contact Rosemary Knight, rknight@doe.k12.ga.us (478)751-6083 Ext. 1284 or download from http://www.gabmacon.org/files/_aD H06_/b598e50d7223a2343745a49013852ec4/Help_A_Child_Smile.pdf

This newsletter is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor.
Please send your suggestions or news to smilam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-262-3303

Student Editor is Caleb Burdette.

Friday, March 24



Scholastic Book Fair



Student Art Show

Student Spring Music Program

Parent/Guardian Informational Meeting!

8 am: Media Center opens for Scholastic Book Fair

8 am: Auditorium lobby opens for student Art Show, featuring individual and collaborative art projects

10 am: Spring Music Program begins in Auditorium

11-11:30 am Parent/Guardian Informational Meeting in Auditorium (agenda: results from Silver and Associates Audit, Facilities Audit and more!) ***YETI COOLER RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED!**

11:30-1 pm Scholastic Book Fair and Student Art Show resumes.



The three photos above are some of our art students preparing the sets for the Spring Music Program!
Are you excited yet?

***Don't forget! The Senior Class is selling Yeti Cooler Raffle Tickets! Get your ticket NOW by contacting Sonya Milam, Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-262-3303 DEADLINE has been extended to 9:45 am March 24. Winner will be announced after Spring Music Program at the Parent/Guardian Informational Meeting. You don't have to be present to win, but wouldn't it be great if you could take it with you that day?**



Character Education

Word of the quarter: **COMMITMENT** The obligation or pledge to carry out some action or to support someone.

Word of the week: **DETERMINATION** the inner strength and behaviors to pursue a goal or task; will power.

Wake up with determination. Go to bed with satisfaction.



happy birthday

Zy ~ March 4

Kameron ~ March 9

Harry ~ March 23

Angelica L. ~ March 27

BJ ~ March 28

Sammy ~ March 29

Thanks to all who completed the School Climate Survey!
Now we need your help again for a second important survey!

Help Still Needed!

Thank You!



This **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> **Deadline is April 14**

When you see DISTRICT, scroll down to STATE SCHOOLS. You will then see GEORIGIA 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



U.S. Department of Education Seeks Comments on
New Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Website

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) is seeking input from users of the IDEA.ed.gov website as part of our effort to provide updated, easy-to-navigate IDEA resources to children with disabilities and their families, teachers, administrators, advocates, and other stakeholders.

To help us facilitate this effort, **OSERS has posted a blog** for you to provide comments. OSERS appreciates your support and suggestions as we continue efforts to improve our online resources as part of our commitment to ensure that infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities and their families have the supports and services they are entitled to under the IDEA.



This Week In Pictures



Ms. Alligood's class read Lynne Blanche's *Catching the Wind* during library time and made their very own kites.



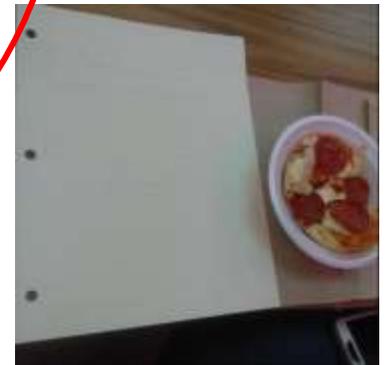
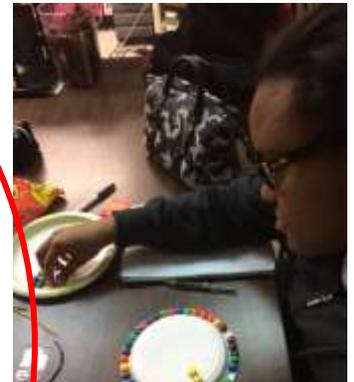
In 2009

Congress established

March 14 as **Pi Day** since the first three digits of Pi are **3.14**.

GAB kicked off our Pi Day celebration by having students from several classes decorate small pies for our bulletin board. The **Algebra** classes worked with equations using M&M's and Reece's cups to measure round plates and to explain the ratio between Pi, Diameter and Circumference. The **Geometry** class celebrated by making braille pictures of the Greek letter used for Pi. Then they measured and used Pi to find the volume and surface area of a drum (they were told not to say Loud as the volume). Next they enjoyed a personal

Peace-A-Pi designed by Mrs. Cherry. They had 3 pepperonis, and 1 part of a 4 inch English Muffin with sauce and cheese.



Ms. Thompson's **Physical Science** classes have been learning about mixtures and solutions, one of which is a colloid. Common colloids are toothpaste, shaving cream, and whipped cream. To add some **ECC** to science, the class practiced **independent living skills** by making a simple snack using whipped cream and pistachio pudding. They later reviewed **test questions** with the game *Pie Face* using the colloid, whipped cream, adding some **ECC** recreation and leisure to the **science** lesson.



FREE SPECIAL EVENTS FOR OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES GRADES 8 AND UP!



“Life After High School” Metro South Regional (Pike, Spaulding, Lamar, Butts, Henry, Upson, Fayette and Newton Counties) Disability Expo & Transition Conference
March 25, 2017: 8:30 am – noon

Lafayette Educational Center, 205 Lafayette Ave, Fayetteville, GA 30214

A one-day conference to learn about employment, day programs, parent resources, transition resources, Medicaid, Social Security Disability and much more! [Register here:](#)



Chattahoochee Valley Families! “What’s Next After High School?” Muscogee County School District Transition Fair
March 29, 2017: 5:00-7:00 PM

Columbus State University Student Recreation Center, 4225 University Avenue, Columbus, GA 31907

An evening including door prizes and food will feature Disability Service Center, Vocational Rehabilitation, recreation and leisure, post-secondary training and schools and much more. Keynote speaker will be Aimee Copeland, a survivor of an accident leaving her without arms and legs but living a fulfilled life. Registration is not required, but we would love to know who is going, so contact Sonya Milam, smilam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-262-3303

To ALL Graduating Seniors: You have an opportunity to apply for a scholarship that is being offered through the **Georgia Foundation for Public Education Scholars Program**. The **deadline** for the application is **Tuesday, March 21**. Please contact Mrs. Keith at mkeith@doe.k12.ga.us for further information. Applications can be picked up in Brittany Jackson’s office.



NFB is accepting applications for scholarships to their National Convention in Orlando Monday, July 10—Saturday, July 15, 2017. Details on applying can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/331066810353777/permalink/1089442011182916/>



Check out this webinar from our friends at Perkins School for the Blind about ECC’s Sports and Leisure on March 21, 2017 - 12:00 pm to 1:00pm



http://www.perkins.org/get-involved/events/learning-with-blindness-mar?utm_campaign=sports%20games%20hobbies&utm_source=marketing&utm_medium=email

Yes, you saw that right! It is time to register for camps!

Act NOW!
Camps fill up quickly!



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.)

Register here:
<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/CampDream#/selectSessions/1802402>



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/sthomas@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)

Registration forms are now available at GAB!

Contact **Sonya Milam**, smilam@doe.k12.ga.us,

478-262-3303

DEADLINE IS APRIL 20!!!



* **VALDOSTA** July 24-28 8 am-3pm Contact Erin Willis (229) 630-8612 erin.willis@bellsouth.net register here:
<https://nfb.org/bell-student-application-form>

* **ATLANTA just in!** June 12-16 and June 19-23 9 am - 3 pm. Georgia State University. For more information, contact: Hayley Alli 404-789-8535 or Jackie Anderson 443-929-2489 register here: <https://nfb.org/bell-student-application-form>
SAVANNAH DATES COMING SOON!



