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 24: Student Art Show AND Student Spring Music Program, GAB Auditorium

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: Residential Life’s Spring Festival for students and families. 4:30 GAB track
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  **Form Deadline is March 20!**
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! The Senior Class is selling Yeti Raffle Tickets. Get your ticket by contacting Sonya Milam, Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-262-3303  **DEADLINE IS MARCH 22**

Don’t forget! The Student Council is still collecting canned goods for local food bank and change for local animal shelter!  **DEADLINE FOR BOTH IS MARCH 17**

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: **COMMITMENT** The obligation or pledge to carry out some action or to support someone.

Word of the week: **CHEERFULNESS** Being in pleasant spirits.

Commitment unlocks the doors of imagination.

~ James Womack

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**This Week In Pictures**

**O&M AND ELA!**

Mrs. Edenfield’s class went on an Orientation and Mobility trip with O&M Specialist Mr. Hudgins to Ocmulgee National Monument. The class is reading *The Jungle Book* in which the wolves lived in a cave. The class used proper orientation and mobility techniques as they explored the Earth Lodge or “cave” at the monument.

**MARDI GRAS 2017**

Our High school French and Art teachers and students welcomed community guests to our campus as we celebrated Mardi Gras during lunch on Tuesday.

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Pictured on the right is **GAB’s Teacher of the Year, Mr. Watkins** and his wife attending the Teacher of the Year Banquet held on February 1 in Atlanta. The other Teacher of the Year honored guests included Andrew McAllister of GSD and Christine Curtis of AASD. Dr. Cindy Gibson and Mrs. Tyrene Neil from GAB attended as did Dr. Kenny Moore and Ms. Jan Stevenson from the Department of Education.
Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

We DO like green eggs and ham!
SPECIAL EVENTS FOR OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES GRADES 8 AND UP!

South Metro Families! (Butts - Clayton - Fayette - Henry – Lamar - Newton - Pike - Spalding – Upson)

“Life After High School” Metro South Regional 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

Meet our Parent to Parent Transition Partner, Mrs. Terri Goodridge!

“As the Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) Transition Partner for Georgia Academy for the Blind, my role is to support families of students who are transitioning to adulthood. Being a part of P2P and the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency’s E3 Project is an exciting time! I am able to reach out to the families raising a child in the teen years and help them “connect the dots” by providing support, information and training on education and healthcare issues related to transition and assisting them with VR services. I am especially excited to support transition efforts for youth with disabilities as young as 14 years old, allowing them to achieve even greater success when they graduate.” ~ Terri Goodridge

To learn more about what Parent to Parent of Georgia can do for you, please connect with me at Terri@p2pga.org or (478) 283-5719. Also, explore our amazing website at www.p2pga.org or call us toll free at 1-800-229-2038.
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 22nd (Wed. - Sat.)
July 23rd – July 26th (Sun. - Wed.)
July 27th – July 30th (Thu. - Sun.)

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

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/

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

Deadline is April 15

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

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](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 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](mailto:Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us)  478-262-3303

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**PATHS TO LITERACY**

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](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us), 478-262-3303


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This newsletter is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor. Send your news and suggestions to [smilam@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us), 478-262-3303. Student editor is Caleb Burdett.