



# Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

April 7, 2017

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent  
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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!**

- April 10- 11: Milestones Testing: Elementary and Middle, Math
- April 12: Residential Life's Spring Festival. 5-8:30 pm. **SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS**
- April 12 – 13: Milestones Testing: Science and Social Studies (5<sup>th</sup> 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



Give it your best  
Achieve your goals  
Be respectful

## We Are the World - We Are the Children

A school wide Spring Festival sponsored by our Residential Staff

Wednesday, April 12, 5-8:30 pm



Open to ALL students and  
their parents/guardians!

Be sure to let your child's RA  
know if you will be joining  
us!

## Character Education

Word of the quarter: **INTEGRITY** Steadfast adherence to a strict code of moral, ethical and artistic values; to consistently be truthful and fair.

Word of the week: **HONESTY** Truthfulness and sincerity.

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

~ Thomas Jefferson



happy birthday

Taylor ~ April 12

Dillon ~ April 17

Frankie ~ April 18

Eugene ~ April 21

Marquez ~ April 26

Joseph ~ April 30

A message from our Superintendent, Dr. Cindy Gibson

Parents, Guardians, Students, and Staff,

Thank you for bearing with us through these two days of storms this week. We appreciate your trust that we do have you covered! Your precious young ones are safer with us and have less anxiety, in many cases, than on the road or at home on an abrupt schedule change. We are on the Emergency Management "Favorites" list, but as it worked out, Macon was the best-case weather scenario. We will work to get our students who were absent because of the weather caught up in the next few days as we get back to regular schedule. I hope all is well with you and you are enjoying the return of beautiful weather!

A huge, and I do mean HUGE SHOUT OUT to Mr. Reynolds and the evening staff that cared for our students so that we could release staff ahead of the worst wave of storms.



It is with great pleasure that the graduating class of 2017 announces our Commencement Speaker for our Graduation Ceremony.....

**Mr. Brian Oglesbee, Teacher and Golf Coach, founder of Vision Without Sight**

Mr. Oglesbee lost his vision at age 16. With the help of his parents, some creative teachers, a year at GAB, and his perseverance, he was able to be a successful high school student. After graduation, he enrolled at the University of Georgia. He worked in the assistive technology lab where he helped students with technology.



Check out his website:  
<http://visionwithout sightgroup.com/index.html>

Today, Mr. Oglesbee is an **American Government and Economics teacher** and coach to the golf team at **Upson – Lee High School** in Thomaston, GA where he encourages his students to work to overcome any obstacle. The public is invited to our graduation ceremony on **Friday, May 26 at 11 am** in the Georgia Academy for the Blind Auditorium.



This is the **last issue** these camps will be in *Panther Press*! **Act today!**



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](https://hpex.columbusstate.edu/camp_abilities/index.php)

To register, send email to: [wert\\_jeanine@columbusstate.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:erin.willis@bellsouth.net) register here: <https://nfb.org/bell-student-application-form>

\* **ATLANTA** 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>  
**There will be no BELL Academy in Savannah this year !**

This newsletter is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor. Please send your suggestions or news to [smilam@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us) 478-262-3303 Student Editor is Caleb Burdette.



