



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

April 5, 2019

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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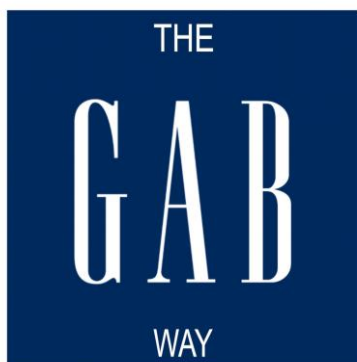
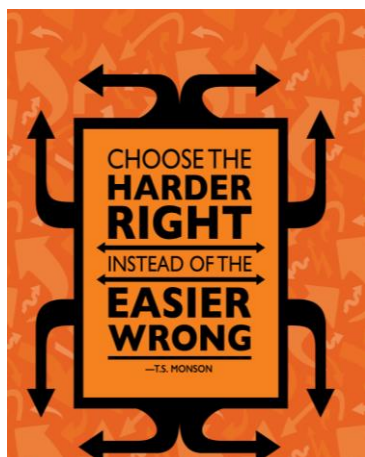


Georgia Academy for the
Blind - GAB



Follow our library:
[@gab_library](https://twitter.com/gab_library)

Mission Statement: The Georgia Academy for the Blind provides 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. *Check out this student produced video featuring this Mission Statement:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRrbhkGSe98>



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

Mark Your Calendars

**just added*

April 9: Special Olympics
*April 10: Military Child Day (see page 7 for details)
April 11-14: SCASB, Alabama (Track & Field)
April 16 Drop In RPM, Floyd County (details, page 3)
April 22: Easter Holiday
April 25-28: Senior Trip
May 17: Graduation *11:00 am in our new and improved auditorium!
May 24: Last day of school

Georgia Milestones Assessments

April 9 - English Language Arts (ELA) – Writing (grades 3-8)
April 10 & 11- ELA (grades 3-8)
April 12 – Make-up Day
April 15 & 16 – Math (grades 3-8)
April 17 – Science (grades 5 and 8 only)
April 18 – Social Studies (grades 5 and 8 only)
April 19 – Make-up Day
April 23 & 24 – ACT
April 29 – Literature – Writing (grade 9)
April 30 – Literature (grade 9) and American Literature
May 1 – Algebra I
May 2 – Geometry
May 3 – Make-up
May 6 – Biology
May 7 – Physical Science
May 8 – US History
May 9 – Economics
May 10 – Make-up



Parents/guardians, you can
help your child by
assuring he/she:



- Gets a good's night sleep.
- Eats a healthy breakfast.
- Gets to school on time.

Learn more here: <http://www.gadoe.org/curriculum-instruction-andassessment/assessment/pages/georgia-milestones-assessment-system.aspx>

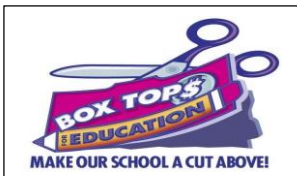
This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor, Sonya Milam. Please send your ideas, news, and resources in your community to her. smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303 *Please remember, to contact us if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!*

Character Education

Perseverance: Working hard
without giving up.

Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be brave
in the attempt.
- Special Olympics athlete oath

The Case of the Missing 1000 Box Tops Mission 2: April 5, 2019



Our GAB Box Top detectives were busy over spring break! Serena Howard, a sister of one of our RAs, brought in 32. Staff member, Sherry Grist brought 20. So, our student fund collected \$5.20 that would have been thrown in the trash. Now we ask that in the few weeks we have left of the school year to try and make it a goal of collecting 200 Box Tops. Please look closely at everything you throw away and check for any Box Tops. Click below to see list of participating products

<https://ga02225912.schoolwires.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=22&dataid=186&FileName=BoxTopsParticipating-Products-Flyer-mar2015.pdf>

Sylvia Layson, slayson@doe.k12.ga.us, 478751-6083 ext. 1200



April Student Birthdays

Pierce April 2	Ashlyn April 21
Caden W April 4	Joshiah April 25
Quaderrius April 7	Marquez April 26
Dillon April 17	Majestic April 27
Frankie April 18	Hope D. April 28
Eugene April 21	Joe April 30

April Staff Birthdays:

Ms. Stroud April 4	Ms. Scott April 22
Mr. Harris April 8	Ms. Easley April 19
Ms. Vaughn April 9	Ms. Bronner April 25
Ms. Hawkins April 12	Ms. Minick April 25
Ms. Y. Gibson April 12	Ms. Thompson April 30
Ms. Sullivan April 20	



Atlanta Area Families

Join the Center for the Visually Impaired for this FREE Field Day at Coan Park. Learn how many sports are adapted for the blind or visually impaired, and then try them out for yourself. Everyone can enjoy this day of fun so be sure to invite your family and friends to register, too! Blindfolds will be available for any sighted participants who want to experience what it is like for their family member or friend to play a sport with a visual impairment. **Registration preferred by April 19.**

Participants will have a chance to meet two medal-winning Paralympian Goalball Players – Atlanta resident Amanda Dennis and Tyler Merren. They will both share their journey to becoming a medal-winning Paralympic athlete and what they are doing now. Get your FREE tickets while they last here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cvi-field-day-tickets-59771173188>

Saturday, April 27

Registration/Check-In: 9:30 a.m. Activities: 10 a.m. to Noon

Location: Coan Park 1530 Woodbine Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30317



Second Notice



REGIONAL PARENT MEETINGS

Join the members of **Georgia's State Schools' Family Engagement Team** and other parents/guardians from the **Atlanta Area School for the Deaf**, the **Georgia Academy for the Blind** and the **Georgia School for the Deaf**

for a **"Drop-In RPM"** (**R**egional **P**arent/Guardian **M**eeting) in YOUR community!

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Drop in anytime between 6-7:30

Georgia School for the Deaf
232 Perry Farm Rd. Cave Spring, GA 30124

- Get the latest updates and give your feedback on your child's school including **Family Engagement Plan**, **School Improvement Plan** and the **School/Student/Parent-Guardian Compact**
- Learn ways to help your child with **school** and **daily living skills**
 - Learn of **valuable resources** in your own **community**
 - Light refreshments served
 - Door prize given

So that we know who to plan for, please RSVP: (AASD) Patti Lombardi 404-300-5858, plombardi@doe.k12.ga.us or (GAB) Sonya Milam: 478-262-3303 smilam@doe.k12.ga.us or (GSD) Marie Dickinson (706) 777-2200 mdickinson@doe.k12.ga.us Also, let us know if you want a RPM in your community!



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"



DIVISION OF
State Schools

SIXTH NOTICE: Summer Camps!

Act fast as spots are limited. Scholarships are available! Contact Sonya for details! Note: these camp resources are simply provided as a courtesy to our families. Though we are confident that they are appropriate for and accessible to our students, GAB does not endorse or sponsor any camp.



Georgia Lions Club Camp, Waycross, GA

June 23~28: Family Camp, age 5-12

June 30~ July 5: Teens, age 13-17

July 7~14: Young Adults, age 18-30

Get your application by contacting Sonya Milam,

Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303 or get it from their website:

<https://www.glcb.org/> **DEADLINE IS APRIL 15 – no late applications will be considered!**



CAMP ABILITIES



COLUMBUS, GA

"A LOSS OF SIGHT, NEVER A LOSS OF VISION"

Camp Abilities Columbus, GA May 24, 2019 - May 27, 2019 at Columbus State University

Camp Abilities Columbus, GA is a residential camp that will be open for a maximum of 16 campers, ages 9 to 18 years old who are blind or visually impaired. Sports and recreational activities include: goalball, beep baseball, beep kickball, tandem biking, rock climbing, swimming, soccer, tennis, track & field and team building activities. Learn more from their website:

[https://kinhs.columbusstate.edu/camp_abilities/camper_registration.p](https://kinhs.columbusstate.edu/camp_abilities/camper_registration.php)

hp Contact Jeanine Fittipaldi-Wert at wert_jeanine@columbusstate.edu for information regarding camp registration



Camp Dreams, (Camp Grace, Roberta, GA)

July 21st – July 24th (Sun. - Wed.) and July 25th – July 28th (Thur. - Sun.) Only online applications are accepted. See the link below. Let Sonya know if you would like assistance in registering.

<http://www.campdreamga.org/summer-camp>



Blaze Adaptive Sports Camp, Camp Twin Lakes, Winder, GA

July 21-26 Ages 7-17 Only online applications are accepted. See the link below. Let Sonya know if you would like assistance in registering.

www.blazesports.org/what-we-do/programs/2019-blazesports-star-camp/



STARS Day Camp at the Center for the Visually Impaired,

Atlanta. Transportation from 7 points in Atlanta area provided. All grades for day camp 9 am-3pm. To register go to

<https://www.cviga.org/userFiles/en/STARS%20Summer%20Enrichment%20Registration%202019.pdf> Sonya has paper applications available as well.

Deadline is May 3!

Week 1 - June 3 to 7 . . . STARS & the Arts

Week 2 - June 10 to 14 . . . STARS & the Arts

Week 3 - June 17 to 21 . . . Sports and Recreation

Week 4 - June 24 to 28 . . . ECC Week, with a focus on Activities of Daily Living, Transition, Social Skills & more!



Middle Georgia Families

Mapping a Self-Determined Future
"Where Transition Meets Real Life"

Saturday, April 13, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast 8:30

Anderson Conference Center
5171 Eisenhower Parkway
Macon, GA 31206

**Youth
Leadership
Track**

**Work and
Job
Training**

**College
Bound
Information**

**Community
Resources**

Register NOW! Space is limited.

DEADLINE to register is
April 5, 2019

Register at:
<http://tinyurl.com/SDConf19>
Or use your QR Reader to register:



Questions? 478-988-7177

This is a one day conference designed to allow parents, students with disabilities, teachers and other professionals to dream about the possibilities for a full life after graduation. There will be a youth leadership track and opportunities for parents and others to learn more about post-secondary transitions, including college, technical school, job training, day programs, and independent living.

Welcome by Dr. Curtis Jones, National Superintendent of the Year.

Note from our Parent Mentor: *I will be attending and presenting at this conference and would love to see our high school students and parents join me. Be sure to register both you and your student. Let me know if you need assistance with this. Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303*



Introducing Another Event for Middle Georgia Families!

HEART OF GEORGIA TRANSITION ALLIANCE



Students With Disabilities Rights and Responsibilities... Navigating the Legal System as a Parent and/or Guardian

Date: April 16, 2019

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Old West Laurens High School Room 1
338 West Laurens School Road
Dublin, GA 31021

Refreshments
will be served.

Parents of students / individuals with disabilities are invited to join us for a night of sharing information, resources, and advocacy opportunities.

Featured presenters:

- The Parent Mentor Partnership ~ Panel
- Region 5 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) ~ Panel
- Attorney - Charles C. "Buddy" Butler
- Parent to Parent of Georgia ~ Christy Shields

Featured Topics:

- Georgia Now and Comprehensive Supports Medicaid Waiver Programs
- Post Secondary Day Programs
- Host Homes
- Transition Planning
- Legal Steps to Guardianship
- Parent Support

Call or
Register
Online to
Attend!

Phone: 478-353-8350
hgtransitions@gmail.com

Heart of Georgia Transition Alliance
C/O East Central GLRS
1405 West Moore Street
Dublin, Georgia 31021

www.hgtransitions.org



This Week in Pictures

(Below) Our Spring Plant Sell began Wednesday. The hours are 8-4 Monday and closed from 11:30-12. The greenhouse will be closed on April 11 and 12. Thank you for supporting the greenhouse and our horticulture students! Keith Blackwell (478) 751-6083 ext. 7110 kblackwell@doe.k12.ga.us. Remember the gates to campus are now locked. To get in, press the button as shown here before proceeding to the greenhouse. **???Officers**





April is the **Month of the Military Child**, a time to celebrate and honor the sacrifices and experiences of military children. On **Wednesday, April 10**, State School Superintendent Richard Woods suggests that each local school district have their faculty, staff and students wear **purple** to honor and show support for the children of military families in Georgia's public schools. "As the child of a military family myself, my staff and I remain committed to providing the support military families need for their children's well-being and success while serving our country," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. "I recognize the resilience military children have developed and the experiences they may face as a family and we are here to support them."

If you are a military family, contact Sonya Milam right away so that we may include and honor your child on this day. smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303. Our entire school will enjoy a special treat and special guests: Patriot Guard Riders at the end of the school day. We will share our photos and updates from this day with the Georgia Department of Education. All families, remember to send something **purple** for your child to wear next Wednesday!

Important Information from Georgia Department of Public Health



Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that affects the brain and the spinal meningitis, and the bloodstream in the form of septicemia. It can cause shock, coma, and death within hours of the first symptoms.

To help protect your students and others from meningococcal disease, Georgia law will soon require students be vaccinated against this disease unless the child has an exemption.

Effective July 1, 2020, children 16 years of age and older who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants) must have received one booster dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday.

If students have not been vaccinated against meningococcal disease, we strongly recommend they visit their doctor or health care provider to get their MCV4 booster shot. Getting MCV4 now will not only help protect students against the ongoing threat of meningitis but will also meet the new school entry requirement.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their pediatrician or local health department about meningococcal and other vaccines their child may need, including: • the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series • the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis vaccine (Tdap or Td booster) • an annual flu vaccine • catch-up immunizations, including varicella, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and hepatitis B.

Parents of students without health insurance or those whose health plan does not cover these vaccines, may call their local health department and ask about getting no or low cost vaccines. For more information, visit <http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children> or call (800)-848-3868.

Thank you for all that you do for Georgia students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact kathleen.toomey@dph.ga.gov or 404-657-2703.

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H. Commissioner
& State Health Officer

