

Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

February 25, 2017



Georgia Academy
for the Blind - GAB

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.



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

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



happy birthday

Zy ~ March 4

Kameron ~ March 9

Harry ~ March 23

Angelica L. ~ March 27

BJ ~ March 28

Sammy ~ March 29

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

TOMORROW!!!

Register by
contacting Sonya Milam
smilam@doe.k12.ga.us
478-262-3303

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!

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 22nd (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/>



COLUMBUS, GA

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

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)

Register by calling 912-283-4320

888-297-1775 (GA Only) or by emailing secretary@glcb.org

Deadline is April 14!

Please note their website is down for a while



* **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:

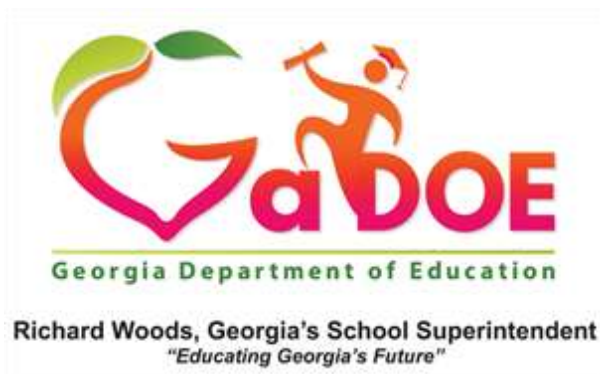
<http://apps.gadoe.org/schoolclimate/parents.nsf/Survey.xsp>

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



**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 brailled onto label tape. smilam@doe.k12.ga.us

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

