

Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

February 3, 2017



Visit us on
Facebook

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 6: GAB T-shirt order **deadline**

February 6: Help a Child Smile Mobile Dental Clinic **forms due!**

February 7: "Drop in RPM" Chatham County: The District Cafe & Eatery, 202 E Broughton St, Savannah, 31401

February 10: Memorial Service for Caitlyn Bibb, Class of 2016, 8:45 a.m., GAB Auditorium

February 14: EECC Valentine Dance

February 16: Braille Challenge (*Program for parent/guardians is being planned*).

February 17-19: Short Course Weekend ***Grooving and Moving***

February 20: Presidents' Day Holiday

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 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

Panther Press is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor. Send suggestions to smilam@doe.k12.ga.us 478-2-2-3303. Student Editor is Caleb Burdette.

Character Education

Word of the quarter: **RESILIENCE** The capacity to successfully manage high levels of change.

Word of the week: **RESOURCEFULNESS** Clever, creative, imaginative, inventive

*Resourcefulness:
Seeing where you want
to go and taking the first
step to get there!*
~ Nick Reese



happy
birthday

February:

Javon ~ 2 nd	Bobbie ~ 15 th
Brian ~ 6	Ambria ~ 18 th
Stephen ~ 6	Roni ~ 22 nd
JaQavious ~ 7 th	Dorrian ~ 24 th
Aschmid ~ 11 th	Kayla ~ 24 th
Daquan ~ 15 th	TJ ~ 26 th

LAST CHANCE! T-shirt orders due, February 6! Don't miss out!

Order form can be found on our website, in the School Office, the Family Resource Room, and at this link:
http://www.gabmacon.org/files/_YKBoA_/dfd016c62b6935913745a49013852ec4/shirt_16_order_form.pdf



Senior Class of 2017



65-quart Yeti Cooler Benefit Raffle! Tickets are now on sale through March 22!
See a member of our senior class or contact Sonya Milam at 478-262-330,
smilam@doe.k12.ga.us to buy yours!

Price: 1 raffle ticket for \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00

Winner announced on March 24, 2017 A great big thanks to GAB parents Tommy and Rachel Towery of Vidalia Small Engine Service



Don't forget! Our **Student Council** is still collecting **canned goods** for local **food bank** and **change** for local **animal rescue center**!



Surveys Matter! Surveys Matter!

Important Information for Families
from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE)

Why are you being asked to complete a Statewide Survey? 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 this survey will assist in achieving this goal.

How is this different from the surveys distributed earlier? The earlier survey was for all parents/guardians of all students in the state. This one is specifically for all parents/guardians who have a child on an IEP.

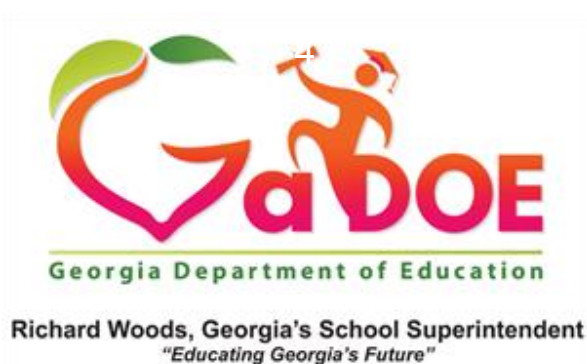
What will be done with the information collected? GaDOE Division of Special Education will work collaboratively with Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P), the statewide Parent Training Information Center, to identify needs in family involvement within the state and local districts based on statewide survey results.

Who will see your answers? Individual answers are kept confidential. The GaDOE has contracted with evaluators at the Georgia Center for Assessment (GCA) to guarantee confidentiality. Each response will be coded by a number – not a name.

How do you complete the survey? You may complete the survey online in English and Spanish at <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Parent-Survey.aspx> If you do not have access to take the online survey, please contact your Parent Mentor for a “paper” copy of the survey. *For 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.*

Why do you want to know my child's ethnicity & disability? Geographic area, ethnicity, and disability group data is collected to ensure the results are valid and reflect the overall demographics of the state. Be sure to indicate ethnicity as requested.

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



Middle Georgia Families: Save this date Registration Information Coming Soon!

March 4, 8:30 am – 1 pm at Anderson Conference Center, 5171 Eisenhower Pkwy, Macon

“Mapping a Self-Determined Future - - Where Transition Meets Real Life” Sponsored by Middle Georgia Learning Resources System



School Days in Pictures.....



What's
for supper
in the
Transition
Cottage?



100

We're 100 days smarter!

In addition to the engaging hands on math activities (such as sorting 10 groups of 10 as show here) on the **100th day of school**, we pretended to be 100 years old!



International Hospitality



Donna Han and fellow volunteers from Wesleyan College's Confucius Center visited students last week prior to their celebration of the Chinese New Year. The students were presented with information on the holiday that they celebrated on Saturday, January 28.

We learned the words to a Chinese song and many Chinese words in addition to facts about the Chinese zodiac.

Our guests presented us with traditional decor and symbols of the holiday such as lanterns, red envelopes, and couplets. To top it off we were given special keychains and a traditional rice cake treat. We thank the Confucius Center for the generous gift of this cultural experience. We gifted each of our guests with a plant from our Green House.



Yes, you saw that right! It is time to begin registering for summer camps! We will make you aware of camps and how to register.

ACT NOW!
Camps quickly
fill up!



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/>



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

The bell rings at 3:00, and our teaching staff continues their own learning! Expanding a ten-year relationship in professional learning to keep the faculty and staff at the Georgia Academy for the Blind national frontrunners in the areas of essential assessments, sensory learning, project based learning, and curriculum planning, consultants **Nancy Toelle of the Texas School for the Blind and Dr. Karen Blankenship of Vanderbilt University** are spending three days in seminar with teachers, paraprofessionals, related service providers, and residential advisers. There are no favorites on this awesome staff, but our **residential advisers** rock! Nancy and Karen travel to many, many schools for the blind, and they are exceptionally complimentary of our residential advisers' eagerness to practice the independent skills that are learned in the instructional day with our students. Our students are in good hands all day **and** all night!



