

# Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

January 27, 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!

January 31: "Drop in RPM" Gwinnett County 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Five Forks Library 2780 Five Forks Trickum Rd SW, Lawrenceville, GA 30044

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

February 7: "Drop in RPM" \*Chatham County

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 11 – 21 Milestones End of Grade testing (grades 3-8)

April 19 – 24: SCASB in Texas (Track and Field)

April 6: High School Prom

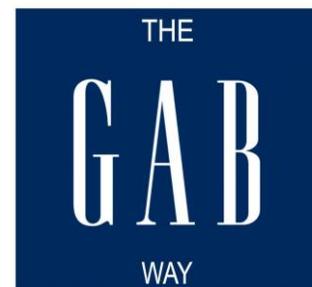
April 17: Easter Holiday

April 27-30: Senior Trip

May 1 – May 12 Milestones End of Course (High School)

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 and news items to her at [smilam@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us) or 478-262-3303.

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: **INITIATIVE**

Proactive; thinking and taking action on your own.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~Anne Frank



happy  
birthday

**Remaining** Sydney ~ 30<sup>th</sup>

**January:** Jamari ~ 31<sup>st</sup>

### February:

Javon ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Bobbie ~ 15<sup>th</sup>

Brian ~ 6 Ambria ~ 18<sup>th</sup>

Stephen ~ 6 Roni ~ 22<sup>nd</sup>

JaQavious ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Dorrian ~ 24<sup>th</sup>

Aschmid ~ 11<sup>th</sup> Kayla ~ 24<sup>th</sup>

Daquan ~ 15<sup>th</sup> TJ ~ 26<sup>th</sup>

Order your GAB T-Shirt today!

Long and short sleeves available in youth and adult sizes! **Deadline is February 6.** Don't miss out!

Order form can be found on our website, in the School Office and the Family Resource Room, and at link on right.



Order form can be found at this link:

[http://www.gabmaco.org/files/\\_YKBoA\\_dfd016c62b6935913745a49013852ec4/shirt\\_16\\_order\\_form.pdf](http://www.gabmaco.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](mailto: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 shelter!



# Surveys Matter Surveys Matter!

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

**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 who have a child on an IEP.

**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.

**Who is being surveyed?** The GaDOE is surveying parents/guardians of students with disabilities throughout Georgia.

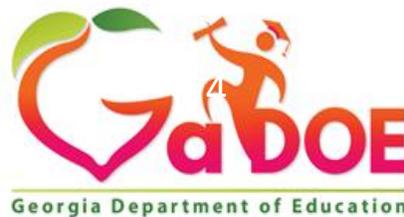
**What will be done with the information collected?** GaDOE Division of Special Education will work collaboratively with Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P), the statewide Parent Training Information Center, to identify needs in family involvement within the state and local districts based on statewide 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](mailto:Smilam@doe.k12.ga.us) 478-262-3303



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

### **Middle Georgia Families: Save these dates!**

**January 28, 9 am -12 pm** at Houston County High School’s Media Center, 920 Hwy 96, Warner Robins

“Transitioning to a World of Possibilities” Sponsored by Houston County Board of Education’s Office of Student Services

**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



# SCASB (South Central Association of Schools for the Blind) report:

Congratulations to our GAB cheerleaders! The Lady Panthers got 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. **Tyzie Brooks** got 1<sup>st</sup> place Outstanding Individual for her routine. **Jayla Jackson** received the Miss Congeniality award which was voted on by all of the cheerleaders in the competition. Our Mascot “Louie”, **Donte Parker** won 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Congratulations to our wrestlers! **Michesley Joseph** 4<sup>th</sup> 182 weight category, **Kevin Hall** 3<sup>rd</sup> 138 weight category, **Angel Lopez** 3<sup>rd</sup> 152 weight category, **Joe Maxwell** 3<sup>rd</sup> 170 weight category won with a pin, **Jermaine Reynolds** 3<sup>rd</sup> 132 weight category won two by pin, **Jartavious Primus** 1<sup>st</sup> 106 weight category won two by pin.

GA TEAM RESULT was 5<sup>th</sup> overall (we only had six out of fourteen weight categories represented) In special recognition the coaches vote on outstanding wrestler in under 145 (lightweights) and over 145 (heavyweights) **Jartavious** won the outstanding wrestler in the lower weight bracket as well.

Way to Go Panthers!



The entire SCASB Team including Senior Chorus, Louie the mascot and teachers.

## Are you WONDERing about Flat Stevie Wonder?

He is still bringing back things for our students to learn about different parts of the world while he educates others about visual impairments! At last count, Stevie has thus far visited 25 states and 18 countries. Some recent favorites are his star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California**; the gravesite of women's rights activist **Susan B. Anthony** in Rochester, **New York**; the **Leaning Tower of Pisa in Pisa, Italy**; black opal mines of **New South Wales, Australia**; **Uganda, Africa**; and schools in the countries of **Jordan** and **Costa Rica**. One school in **California** even made our students a video made with the pictures they took with voice descriptions. Another new friend from the **Ireland School for the Blind** sent our students Irish flags and candy. He recently made his way to the **Mississippi School for the Blind** to cheer for our GAB competitors and chorus as well as the Presidential Inauguration in **Washington, D.C**. We continue to look for networking opportunities and people willing to host Stevie in faraway places or on a vacation. If you or someone you know would be interested in having Stevie accompany you on an adventure, please let Ms. Thompson know at [mthompson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mthompson@doe.k12.ga.us) and she will get you an education packet and Stevie as soon as one comes available.



You might be **WONDER**ing why Ms. Thompson's Environmental Science class students hung around the school freezer for a very brief moment on Tuesday! They explained: "It was the closest thing we could get to in order to experience the harsh temperatures of the tundra biome!" The standard SVE2 states that the earth is one interconnected system. Students are learning that non-living or abiotic things affect the lives of living or biotic things; one of these factors being the weather. Students felt -7 degree temperatures which would be similar to what it feels like in Greenland. Students watched the arctic portion of the Human Earth series and were amazed at how the people and animals of this region

