



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, January 8th, 2021

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 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>

Mark your Calendar

1/15 & 1/18 — Friday the 15th, new holiday added and Monday MLK Jr. Holiday (Thursday 1/14 dismissal will be at 1:00)

2/15 — President's Day, Monday Holiday

3/29 through 4/5 — Spring Break Week with Easter Holiday

NATIONAL



BRAILLE

LITERACY
MONTH

In honor of Louis Braille's 212th birthday, January is National Braille Literacy Month! Here's a few fun facts about braille:

1. Most languages have their own Braille system, braille is NOT a language!
2. Braille was created by Louis Braille when he was just 12 years old. WOW!
3. 6-dot Braille cells have 63 potential combos

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

A message from our Superintendent

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, and Staff,

Happy New Year! The good news is we are about as normal as normal has been in a long time, and we couldn't be more thankful for it! Classes have resumed online and onsite, and will continue so at least through third quarter in March. Be assured that the well-being of students and staff is the highest priority with the increase in COVID activity being a force to be reckoned with.

We at the Georgia Academy for the Blind are very vigilant and compliant with COVID-19 safety protocol. Any student with symptoms of flu, COVID-19, colds, etc., is sent to the nurse for further evaluation immediately. The nurses guide us accordingly. We apologize for the inconvenience of needing someone to pick up a child from GAB because of illness. This is a time when staff and students should stay away from others even if symptoms are mild, and we would normally just push through and continue going to work and school. If students are exposed to COVID outside of the GAB environment, please follow the recommendations for quarantine so that students and staff at GAB are not put at risk. Please contact Superintendent, Cindy Gibson or Assistant Principal, Alicia Jackson if you have any questions regarding COVID-19 safety requirements.

By now you have been contacted by case managers to inform you that students will be dismissed from school at 1:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 14, 2021. Friday, January 15, and Monday, January 18 will be student holidays, and students return on Monday evening, January 18 or Tuesday morning, January 19, 2021, to resume classes. That makes two weeks in a row that will be 4-day school weeks.

Our first School Council meeting of 2020-2021 will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021. This is an open meeting online and onsite. In a regular year, we hold 4 meetings which are designed to facilitate home-school communication and exchange of information. It is not a governing committee, but we will be electing officers to assist with input and reaching out to all families. The link will be sent a few days prior to the meeting.

Campus renovations continue at GAB, come rain, sleet or COVID! This week a new serving line was installed in the dining hall with furniture décor to follow in coming weeks, and shortly the gym will be reroofed.

As we strive to provide the highest quality of services and instruction in the face-to-face and virtual environments, we are pleased to share Supt. Richard Woods announcement that the Georgia Board of Education has approved that milestones testing count only the very reduced amount of .01% of students' grades. This forbearance with high-stakes testing provides opportunity to accommodate students in various circumstances that challenge engagement and achievement.

Through family and school resilience, we will persevere to provide quality environments and preparation for students to enjoy quality of life and develop highest potential.

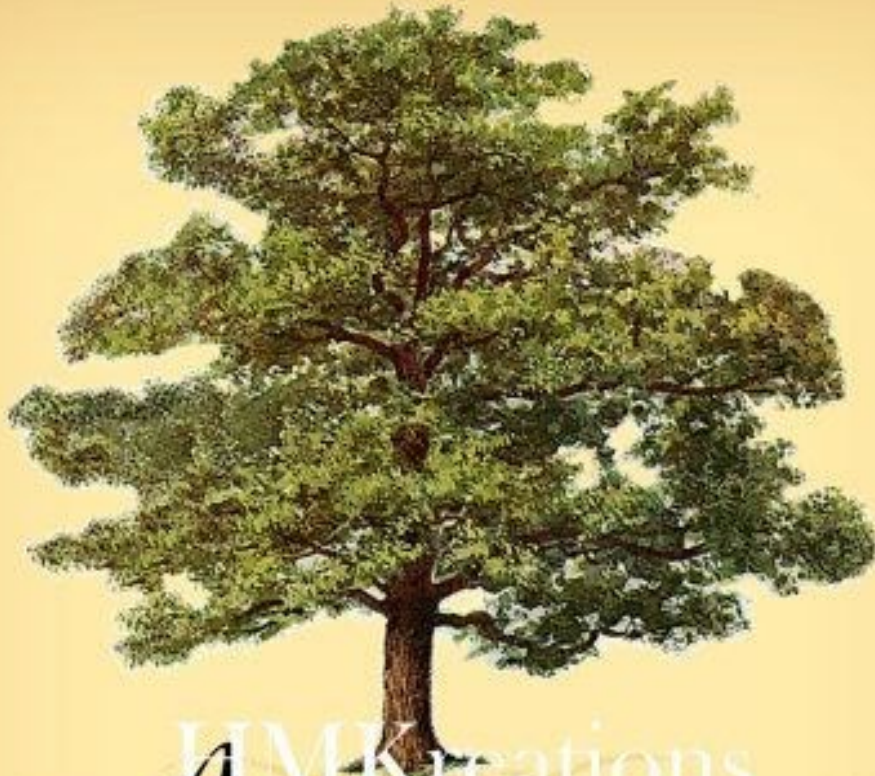
We wish you and yours the very best.

Always,

Cindy



"The Oak Tree"



AMKreations

A mighty wind blew night and day.
It stole the oak tree's leaves away.
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark
Until the oak was tired and stark.
But still the oak tree held its ground
While other trees fell all around.
The weary wind gave up and spoke,
"How can you still be standing, Oak?"
The oak tree said, "I know that you
Can break each branch of mine in two,
Carry every leaf away,
Shake my limbs, and make me sway.
But I have roots stretched in the earth,
Growing stronger since my birth.
You'll never touch them, for you see,
They are the deepest part of me.
Until today, I wasn't sure
Of just how much I could endure.
But now I've found, with thanks to you,
I'm stronger than I ever knew."

- Johnny Ray Ryder, Jr.

Community Outreach Project

Generations of Stockings

Stockings for the Generations Adult Day Services

In the spirit of giving and serving our community, the Project SEARCH interns researched organizations to serve during the holiday season.

They chose to reach out to Generations Adult Day Services Inc. which has a house on Vineville Ave. (across the street from GAB).

Generations serves adults with developmental disabilities. The interns shopped for items to fill stockings based on the needs and interests of the clients of Generations House. The PS interns used their money to purchase enough items to fill 7 stockings for the 7 clients of Generations House and the stockings were delivered Dec. 18, 2020.



During Horticulture, Mrs. Churchwell's class enjoyed roasting marshmallows and smores by the fire. Jamari and Sammy ate the smores, while Kimberly and Jordan liked roasting the marshmallows. All the students and adults enjoyed eating them as well, Thanks to Mr. Blackwell for all his help and keeping the fire under control!



January Birthdays

1/5	Devoneta	1/24	Ayden
1/8	Madison	1/24	Destiny
1/14	John	1/31	Ian R.
1/21	Brayden	1/31	Jamari
1/23	Morgan		

