



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, January 29th, 2021

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider*

**Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent**

2895 Vineville Avenue

Macon, GA 31204

478-751-6083



Georgia Academy for  
the Blind - GAB



Follow our library:

@gablibrary

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*

## **Mark you Calendars**

**February 1st** – Onsite classes resume on Monday

**February 15th** – President's Day, Monday Holiday

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

NATIONAL



B R A I L L E

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](mailto: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 GAB Family,**

Thank you for your patience and understanding when GAB had to go 100% virtual by COVID guidance. This message is to confirm that GAB will reopen effective Sunday evening, January 31, 2021. Those who have chosen virtual instruction prior to our January COVID event may of course continue virtually. We completely apologize and know the inconvenience caused by school building closure, and we overwhelmingly honor the decisions that families make in the best interest of their children. We so appreciate you all for bearing with the journey's challenges with us.

A highpoint of the week is to thank and praise all the parents/guardians who attended the School Council meeting on Friday, January 22, 2021. We cannot thank you enough for sharing and supporting our school and each other. We had families of students who have attended virtually all year and families who are committed to onsite instruction barring events beyond our control. In our meeting we decided to meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 1:00 p.m. in person or virtual to everyone's convenience. School Council is an open meeting to discuss all matters that affects student achievement and school improvement. It is a connection to stay informed and to share what works or doesn't. We had a hiccup in not being able to admit those who called in using the provided number and code. We so apologize and will be seeking a solution before the next meeting.

As reported, the roofing of the gym has begun. You will be pleased to know that additional approved upgrades. I will provide more information as these projects are scheduled. This does not mean that all these projects will be completed this year.

Orientation and Mobility Training Site	Construct an on-site space for orientation and mobility training
Media Center Upgrade	Remodel and refurbish media center, removing old book shelves and installing new flooring, replacing bookshelves with new updated furniture
Cottage Upgrade	Update Dorothy's cottage to be ADA compliant and install required sprinkler system to create a transition center
Bathroom renovations	Update bathrooms in cottages 1,7 and 8
Cafeteria upgrade	Remodel and refurbish cafeteria dining hall with new furniture, paint and lighting

**I hope you are all well, and we all look forward to GAB normal on Sunday evening and Monday morning! Reach out if you need anything.**

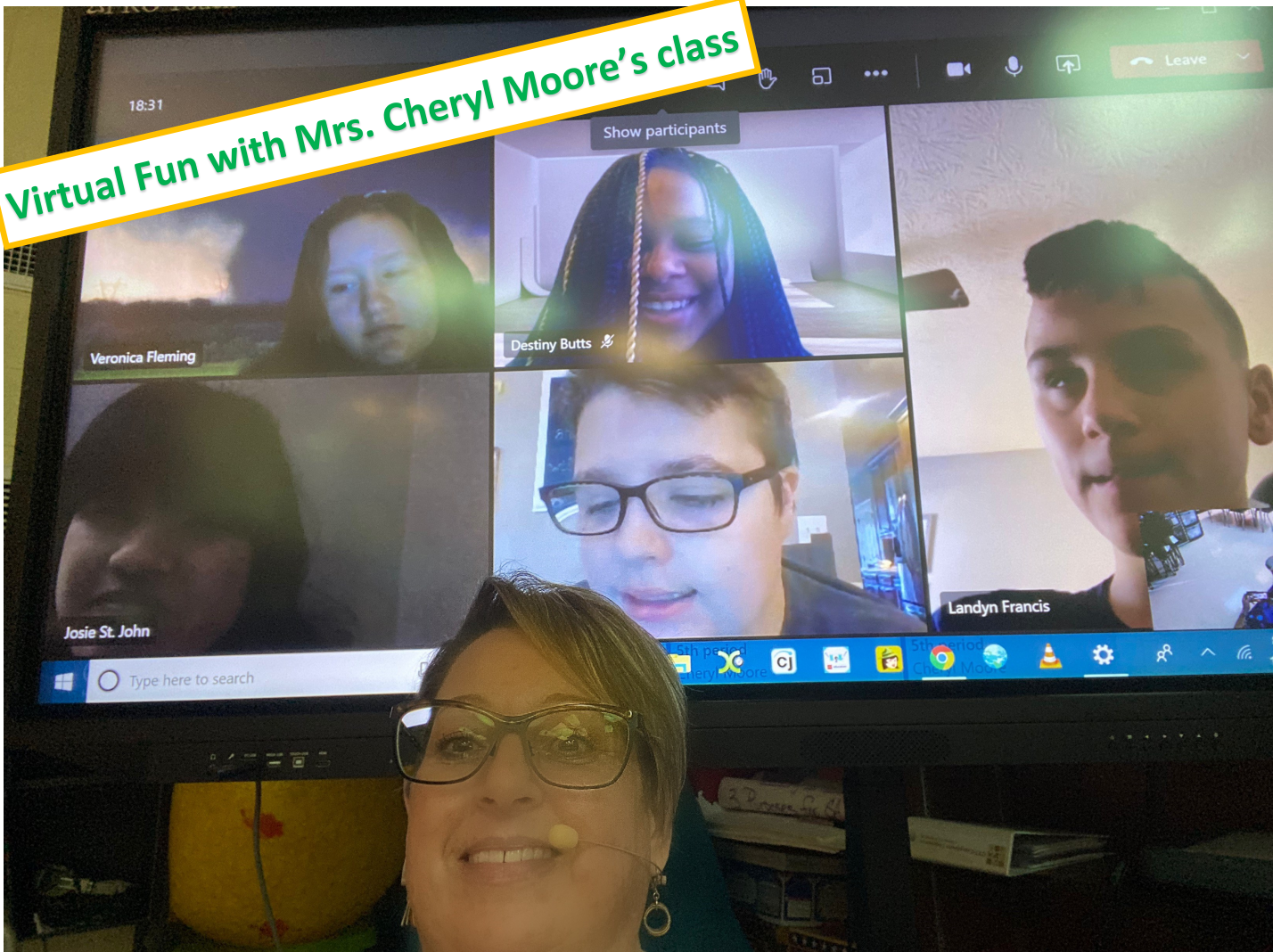
**Always,**

**Cindy**



Devon working on fluency virtually with Ms. Chelsea, our Speech Therapist. Ms. Chelsea says they have fun and he is such a hard worker!

Virtual Fun with Mrs. Cheryl Moore's class





Middle GA Parent Mentor Partnership Presents



# GUARDIANSHIP

AND YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - 1:00PM

---

**Do you have questions about when your special needs child turns 18?**

Join us for this FREE webinar where Attorney Jim McCarten will answer important questions regarding guardianship:

- What is guardianship and why is it needed?
- Cost? Is there a way to get help with the cost?
- Where do you begin the process?

Register by scanning the UPC Code, or following the link here: <https://forms.gle/ZwhFDu8wPPy9whjd9>



**SCAN ME**



Georgia  
Parent Mentor  
Partnership



# January Birthdays

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

