



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, February 5th, 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=IRbhhkGSe98>

## *Mark your Calendars*

February 5th - Wear Red Day

February 14th - Valentine's Day (Sunday)

February 15th - President's Day, Monday Holiday

February 19th - School Council Meeting @1:00

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

## History of World Nutella Day is February 5th!

World Nutella Day was first celebrated in 2007. The idea for the day came from Sara Rosso who was an American blogger who was living in Italy at the time. What made her think to start World Nutella Day? Why her love of the product of course! The fans of Nutella embraced the day with gusto and took the joy of the day to social media around the world! 2015 saw the transfer of the Day from Sara to the company that makes Nutella, Ferrero. Making this transfer allowed for the day to become even larger and ensured its longevity. The company has done some pretty creative things to support World Nutella Day. There is a website ([nutelladay.com](http://nutelladay.com)) to keep current on all of the plans for the holiday. You can even sign up for a chance to become the Chief Nutella Ambassador!



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 Families,

It is **February** and all is well at the Georgia Academy for the Blind! The school is fully open for onsite Instruction and residential living. Again, thank you to our School Council for support that families have choice of virtual or onsite instruction until further notice. Over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our students have chosen to attend in-person. All are invited to join future School Council meetings which will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in-person or virtual. Notice will be sent of the next meeting which will be February 19, 2021.

Just for clarification, GAB is a State School governed by the Georgia Department of Education and operating under the State leadership of Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent and Dr. Kenney Moore, State Schools Director. Please know that all operational decisions at GAB are approved by State level leadership prior to being communicated publicly. You will find that local school districts have issues to address that do not affect State Schools and will therefore publish decisions accordingly. Please do reach out to me to discuss any matters that concern or interest you. We try to keep everyone in the know, but you may have a concern that needs to be addressed individually.

Included in this newsletter is the Department of Public Health protocol document for returning to work/school from diagnosed or suspected COVID-19 infection. If your child is exposed or diagnosed with this virus, please use this document as your guide, notify the school of your child's absence or need for online instruction during quarantine or isolation, or contact Assistant Principal, Alicia Jackson, or me to help you know what to do. GAB follows all protocol to deter exposure to students and staff.

February is American Heart month, and this Friday is Wear Red Day. Please join us in recognizing this ♥ worthy occasion by wearing red.

Also, we challenge you to do something extra that will make your

♥ happy: walk a few extra steps or pass on the fried and opt for baked! Please encourage your students to wear red and keep a happy heart!

We will enjoy a week of activity starting Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in honor of Kid's Heart Challenge.

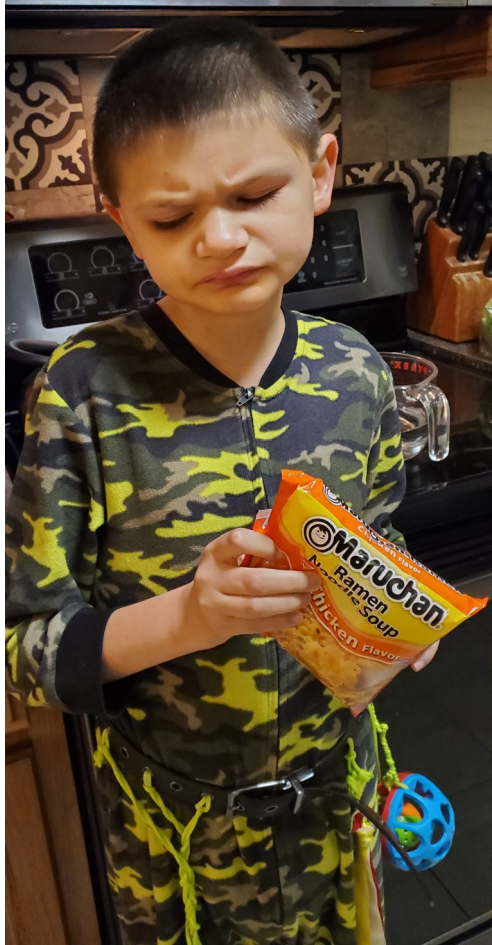
**It all starts with the ♥!**

Always,  
Cindy





Here are some photos of Dillon's work during the COVID break. Mom helped him construct a chart about *magnets* (photo below). She also guided him as they cooked *noodles* to demonstrate his understanding of the letter *N*. Mrs. Creech, Dillon's teacher, was so proud of the work he did at home during virtual learning!



This week on Tuesday, February 2nd, we celebrated Groundhog Day! And you will be pleased to know that **Punxsutawney Corona Phil** did not see his shadow so we will NOT have 6 more weeks of quarantine! In Groundhog-ese, **Corona Phil** gave his prediction scroll that reads:

It is a beautiful morning this I can see,  
With all my faves viewing virtually.  
With my faithful followers being safe and  
secure, Our tradition of groundhog must  
endure. We all have passed through  
the darkness of night,  
But now see hope of morning's  
bright light.



**Happy Groundhog Day**



At GAB our staff wears all kinds of hats to serve our students! Pictured on the left is Mr. Forrester, our Systems Analyst. He is reading to Mrs. Creech 8th grade guys. Having a familiar adult share stories reinforces the idea that reading is important for *everyone!*

**READING**



## 2021 Annual Parent Involvement Survey for Georgia Families



### Raising a Student with a Disability

Georgia Department of Education, (GaDOE)

Division for Special Education

In Partnership With

Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P)

**Please complete the online survey to make your voice heard.**

#### **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 local school systems 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 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. 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

<https://survey.gadoe.org/SPEDParentSurvey>

or [www.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.org) or [www.parentmentors.org](http://www.parentmentors.org).

#### **Why do you want to know my child's ethnicity & disability?**

Geographic area, ethnicity, and disability group data are 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?**

Parent to Parent of Georgia at 800-229-2038 / [www.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.org).

Special Education Help Desk at 404-657-9968

You may also call your local school system's Parent Mentor.

To find out if your system has a Parent Mentor on staff, go to [www.parentmentors.org](http://www.parentmentors.org)



Georgia  
Parent Mentor  
Partnership





Find Your Freedom!

# Bike Day



**Everyone is welcome to try a Freedom Concepts Adaptive Bike!**

Join our trained professionals who will be on hand to conduct product sizing and evaluations for children and youth ages 3 and up.

## Wellspring Wellness Center

1101 Dunbar Road  
Warner Robins, GA

**Thursday, Feb. 11th, 2021**

Time: 2:00pm - 6:00pm

**Please RSVP to:  
Beth Bryan, PT, DPT  
478-785-1024**



CREATING A **CYCLE** OF *mobility*

**Log on to social media and share pictures  
of your Bike Day experience!**



[www.facebook.com/FreedomConceptsInc](https://www.facebook.com/FreedomConceptsInc)



[@FreedomConcepts](https://twitter.com/FreedomConcepts)



[@freedomconcepts](https://www.instagram.com/freedomconcepts)

[www.freedomconcepts.com](http://www.freedomconcepts.com)

Middle GA Parent Mentor Partnership Presents



# GUARDIANSHIP

AND YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - 1:00PM

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**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

# **February**

# **Birthdays**

**2/2      Ryder                      2/18      Ambria**

**2/3      Elisha                      2/22      Roni**

**2/6      Brian                      2/24      Dorrian**

**2/11      Aschmid                      2/24      Kayla**

