



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, February 19, 2021

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

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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 19th - School Council Meeting @1:00

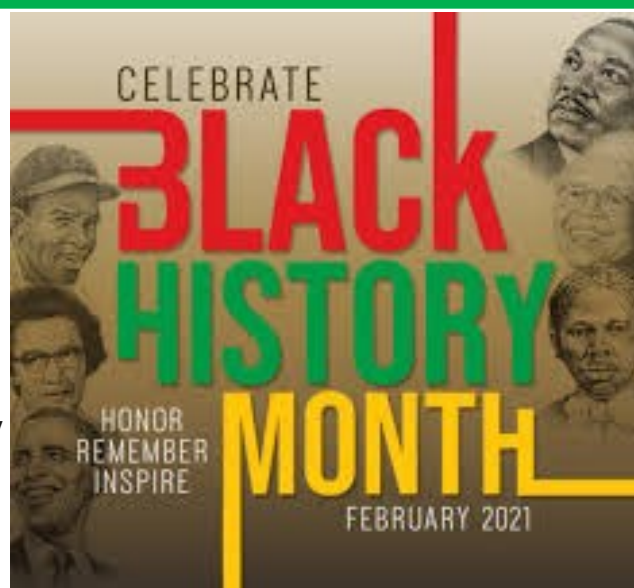
3/29 through 4/5 - Spring Break Week with Easter Holiday
Residential students return on Monday 4/5.

Black History Month

2021 Theme

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month 2021 theme, "Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity" explores the African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States.



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 GAB Families,

What a great week to wear jeans to work and bring on the hoodies to weather the 37 degree (That's cold for us!) chill. Our Seniors 2020 crafted the mantra "We don't need 2020 to have perfect vision!" No truer words were ever spoken. Along about now you may be thinking. . . "We didn't need 2020!" Well, it is the gift that keeps on giving, and now we give you the best news in a long, long, time. That is, plans are underway for in-person prom and graduation services for our Classes of 2020 and 2021. You will receive updates, but in the works is Thursday night prom May 20 and Friday morning graduation exercises May 21. We are looking at outdoor venues with pavilion coverage as needed. More information will be forthcoming as we celebrate moving on, moving strong!

I hope you will join us for the School Council meeting today, Friday, February 19, at 1:00 p.m. This is a time for families to touch base with what is going on at GAB and to share with all of us for the good of all. If you are unable to join us on Teams or by telephone today, the next School Council meeting is the 3rd Friday in March.

The last newsletter contained the most recent CDC/Department of Public Health COVID-19 guidance. Take time to review that document when you can. We are most thankful that changes in length of quarantine and determining who must quarantine are less restrictive. Be assured that all measures of COVID-19 prevention are implemented at GAB, and all things considered, they are working well. You may remember that when we had the first GAB case, we were recommended to go 100% virtual. Most recently, a case required quarantine of only the most direct contacts. We apologize if your child was one of those quarantined and appreciate your understanding the importance of following the DPH standards. The COVID-19 data seems to be steadily improving as school districts are opening to onsite instruction and supports for healthy gatherings are monitored.

Thus far **Kids' Heart Challenge** festivities at GAB have raised \$75 for the **American Heart Association**. We will continue our comfort clothes, our focus on physical activity and taking donations next week as we emphasize : You **MUST** take care of **YOU**!

Again, moving on, moving strong!

Always,
Cindy

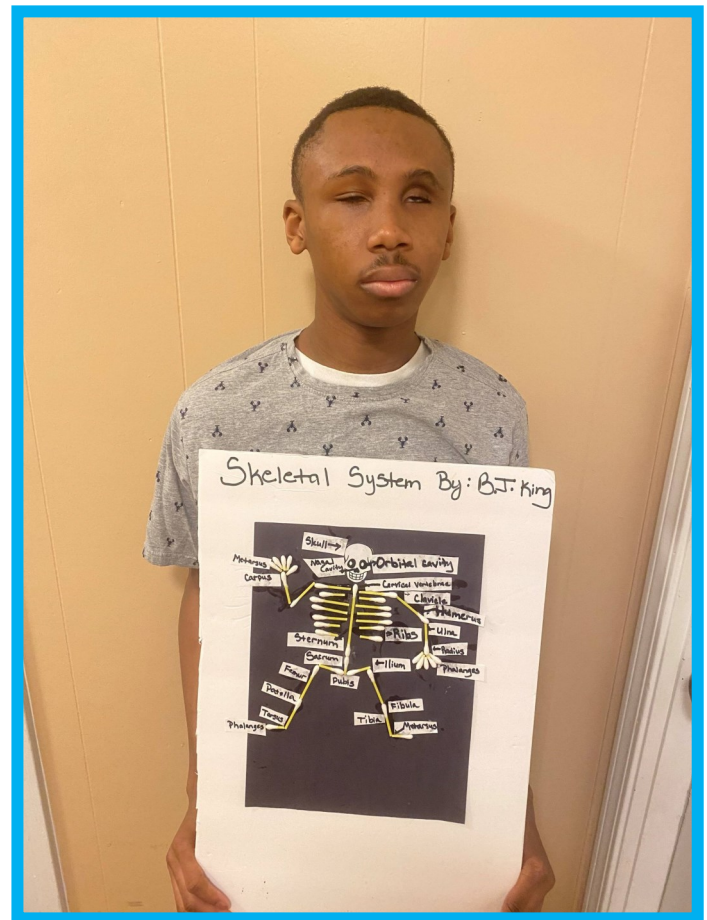
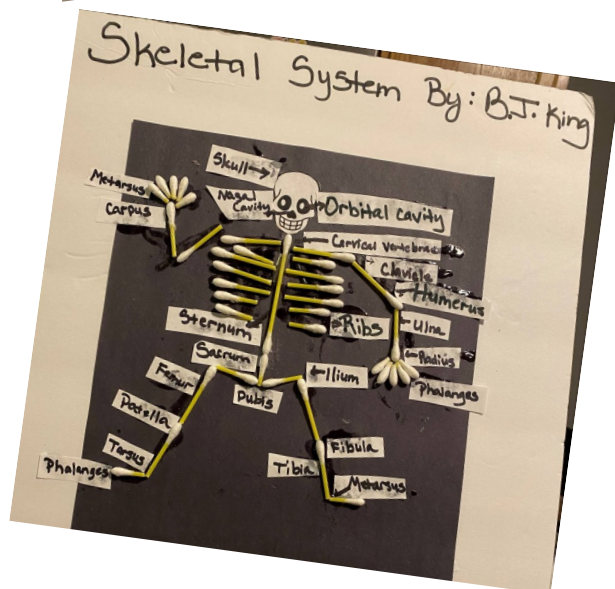


A SHOUT OUT FROM MRS. MULLIS:



I wanted to share with you all how great it is to have GREAT supportive parents.

Mrs. King (BJ's mom) always sends me copies of BJ's completed assignments from his choice board every week. Our virtual multiple disabilities students have had many obstacles to overcome at home being virtual. Most of my parents sit in on my sessions daily. They help provide one on one support that they would otherwise be receiving at school. Since my class can't receive the hands on instruction (that they would receive from school) the parents play a huge role with their child's needs. All of my parents' have been great and none have missed over 5 days of class since the beginning of school. I just wanted you all to see the hard work that our parents are doing to help get their child through this pandemic.



**PROUD
TEACHER
OF AMAZING
STUDENTS**

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 or 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.

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



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

