



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, February 26, 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

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

5/20 - Prom (location to be announced)

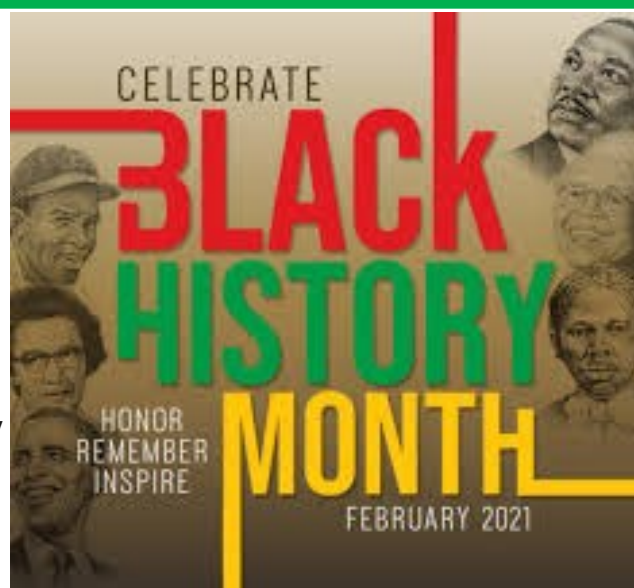
5/21 - Graduation

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 Family,

I hope you have enjoyed a week of beautiful weather and the optimism that it brings. Things at GAB are taking on more of a familiar ring to pre-COVID times. You are receiving information on testing from Jon Smith, Assistant Principal, and since the “menu has recently changed,” please read carefully and let us know if you need any clarification. Case managers have advised you of the tests required for your students whether onsite or virtual. Springtime and high-stakes testing are synonymous in the education world!

This is announcement #1 of the GAB Summer Program focused on enrichment for GAB students and inclusion of prospective students if space allows. Dawn Day, Curriculum Director, will oversee this program, and information is in process of being rolled out. Do feel free to contact Ms. Day mday@doe.k12.ga.us directly to ensure your child gets in on this opportunity. Summer Program 2021 is planned to look like this:

2 weeks June 7 – 11 and June 14-18 (Students will go home for the weekend.)

Both weeks will be K-12.

Students may attend one or both weeks.

GAB students have 1st option.

Students in Ga but not GAB will be invited if there are spots available and adequate staff.

The focus of the weeks is Literacy and Related Services.

There is no cost for attendance.

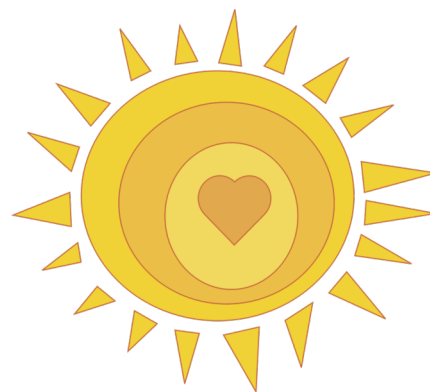
Reimbursement to counties who agree to transport students to and from Summer Program is in the works.

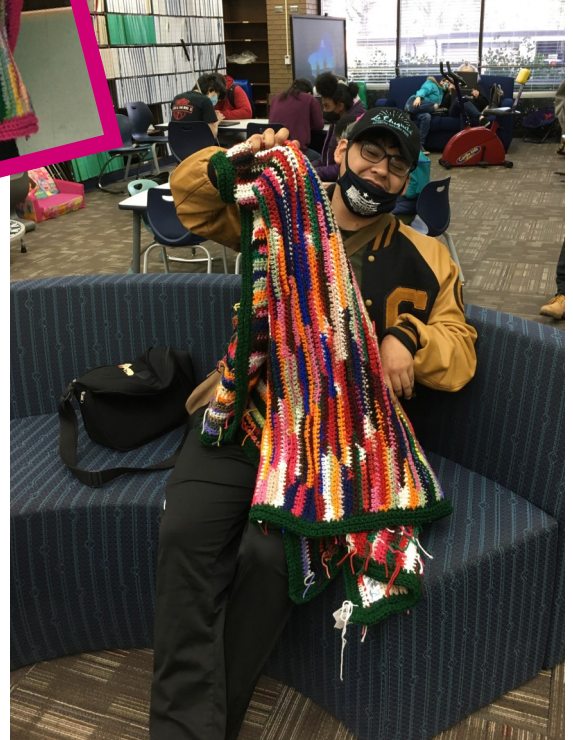
Once again, we are happy to report plans for the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021. We propose a gala two-day event to include the prom on Thursday night, May 20, 2021, and Graduation exercises at 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 21, 2021. The Senior Committee is in event-planning mode now, to include Thursday night lodging, one room per student’s family, in Macon.

Enjoy the weekend, and we look forward to seeing you on Monday!

Always,

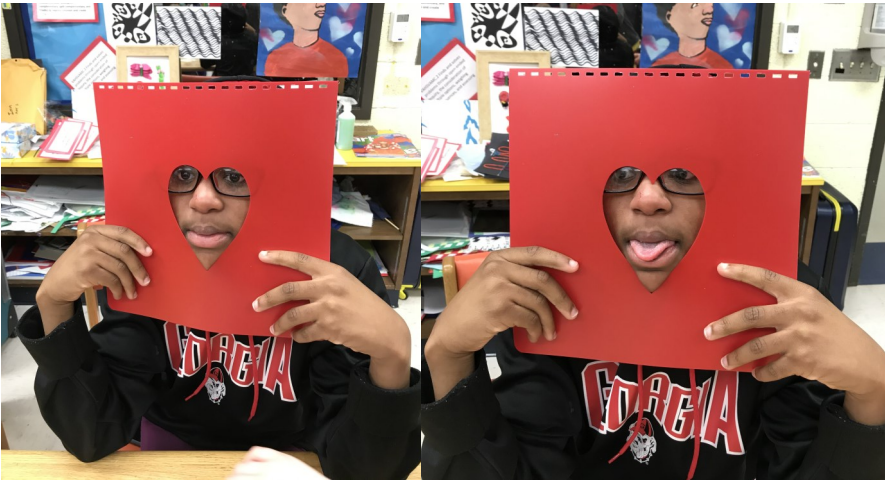
Cindy





**New GAB
students get
Handmade
blankets from
Our GAB
angel!**

Except for Tyzia
pictured above, she
is not new to GAB by
any means! Last year
she was a Senior and
this year she is in
Project Search!

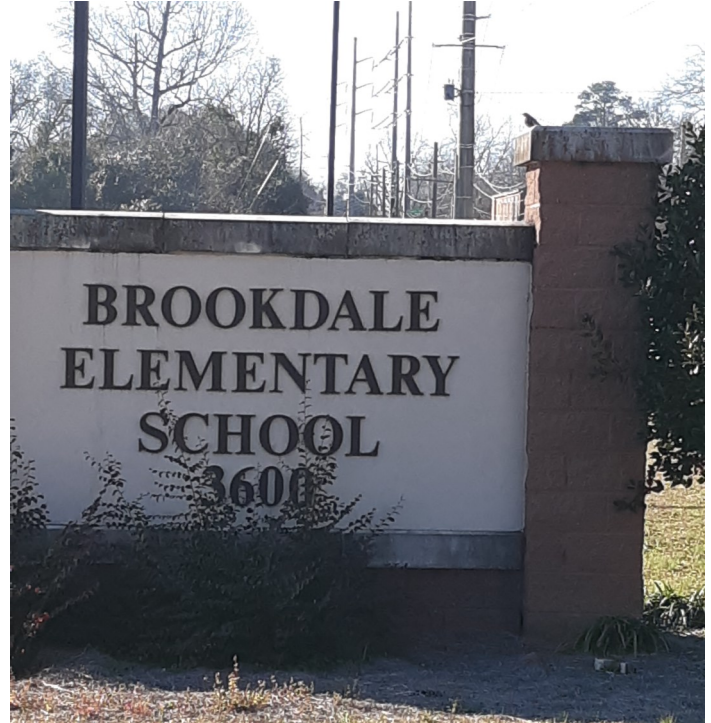


Art students have been learning about mosaics of Ancient Rome. To prepare for Valentine's Day, they learned the stories surrounding St. Valentine of Ancient Rome and then made their own heart mosaic. This ECC class had a little discussion about putting broken hearts back together as they glued each mosaic piece in place, and they enjoyed trying to name as many songs with the word "heart" in the title as possible.



Once again GAB cares and share food to our local temporary Warming Center located one mile from GAB Campus at Brooks Middle school.

They were so excited for our food donation and said thank you to each and everyone that donated.



Georgia Cane Quest 2021

March 15-May 7, 2021

We are so excited to share registration with you for our very first Georgia Cane Quest!

Typically, Cane Quests are held 1 day and in person, however, we are going virtual due to COVID-19. This Cane Quest will take place over a course of 8 weeks March 15-May 7, 2021. Students will be given 4 challenges and 2 weeks to complete each challenge.

Videos of the student completing each challenge will be uploaded to a shared folder for the Cane Quest Committee to review.

Once a challenge is marked complete, the student will receive a braille bracelet.

When all 4 bracelets are received, a special prize will be given to celebrate the student's participation and completion of all challenges!

Register by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hU3GdFt1TkexbF9xWMHoyKJGFgox1WhMpJgw-C-17S1URjRYUVhKV0RWM0JDR0IGVjNVMUIBVkZNNC4u>

Direct questions to your GA Cane Quest Committee:

georgiacanequest@gmail.com



MARCH 2ND:

DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER

Read Across America Day

Launched in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA) and guided by a committee of educators, NEA's Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading. The focus is to motivate children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources that are about everyone, for everyone.



The titles and resources featured by NEA's Read Across America include books that students can see themselves reflected in, as well as books that allow readers to see a world or a character that might be different than them. The overall idea is to celebrate diversity.

Students and staff are invited to dress up as their favorite character from a book on Read Across America Day, Tuesday, March 2nd. We will also have a special event in the media center that day. Families of residential students, remember to send a costume with your child when they return to school on Sunday. Pictures to come soon!



Calling all 6th through 12th grade students GAB Panthers!

Student wellness surveys are currently being given to collect data on student wellness across the state and we could really use your help! But check this out, the survey is completely voluntary, it's totally up to you if you want to participate or not! So if you want to give the survey a try, then use your panther paws and click this link..... Thanks in advance: <https://gshs.gadoe.org/StudentWellness>

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

