



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Georgia Academy for the Blind - GAB



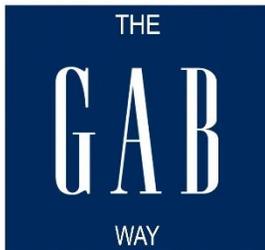
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Mission Statement: The Georgia Academy for the Blind provides quality education services to Georgia's students with visual impairments and/or visual impairments in conjunction with other disabilities to prepare them to achieve their highest level of independence in transition to college and career readiness.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- February 2-3: February 13: ECCC Valentines Dance, Media Center
- February 19: Presidents' Day Holiday
- February 28: Braille Challenge - - Programs for parents/guardians are planned!
- March 23: Spring Program
- March 26-30: Spring Break
- April 2: Easter Holiday
- April 5: Prom
- April 19-22 SCASB
- April 26-29: Senior Trip
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- May 1: Help a Child Smile Dental Clinic
- May 25: Graduation



Character Education

Empathy, Part 3! We're watching a video series about the importance of empathy! Watch it at: www.classdojo.com/BigIdeas and ask your child these questions this weekend: 1. How can we recognize when we're in *The Maze* and try to stay out of it? 2. What does it mean to put yourself in someone else's shoes? 3. Tell about a time in your life you had to practice staying out of *The Maze*. Learn more about our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program by visiting: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-andAssessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Positive-Behavioral-Interventions-andSupport.aspx>



This bulletin board in the Hendricks building was designed by Mrs. Rushing's and Mrs. Zabokrtsky's class featuring photos and Brailled descriptions of Frederick Douglas, Harriett Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, Colin Powell, Dr. Mae Jemison, President Obama, Dr. Condoleeza Rice, Tyler Perry and Mrs. Rushing's and Mrs. Zabokrtsky's students. The Georgia Standards in writing and Social Studies are also included in print and Braille.

Each day during the morning news we are sharing information and each day during break we are having descriptive caption videos to enjoy. Our Social Studies classes are emphasizing the important African American individuals in our history. See our special spot light on page 2 of one of our own!

Monsieur James Caldwell

We are proud of our own Black History Month legend Monsieur James Caldwell who joined our GAB family last year as our high school French teacher.

Monsieur Caldwell began his teaching career in Bibb County in 1968. He was only the second black person to teach at the all-white Lanier High School for Boys and the first to successfully remain there until it became Central High School in 1970. He remained at Central until he retired in 2005 with 37 years of service.

Monsieur Caldwell received the Governor's Humanities Award in 2008 for exemplary achievement across various cultural, multi-economic, and racially diverse populations. He is also being honored by Fisk University this year with the Leontine Espy Award for his work in the Humanities.

When he was a student at Alabama State University, Monsieur Caldwell participated in the Selma-Montgomery March. He has traveled to countries all over the world, including England, France, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Italy, Greece, Austria, Senegal, Haiti and Canada.



(Left) Monsieur Caldwell in 2017

(Right) Monsieur Caldwell in 1968



★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

February

~6th Stephen and Brian

~7th JaQavious

~11th Aschmid

~15th DaQuan

~18th Ambria

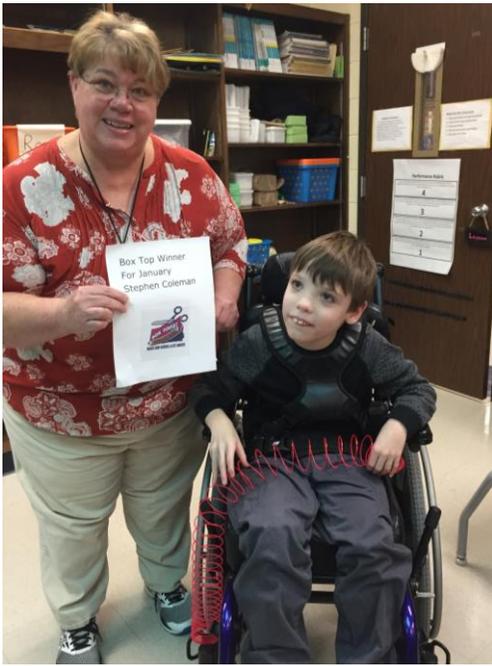
~22nd Roni

~24th Kayla and Dorrian

~26th TJ



This Week in Pictures



THUMBS UP FOR HELPING MEET OUR GOAL!



(Left) On Monday, elementary student Stephen Coleman brought in over 40 Box Tops that which made us reach our goal of 1,000 for the year. He received the prize of two Slinkys! We have begun a second round with another goal for 1,000. Pulling together, we are confident we can do this.

Thanks for your support and help! Keep them coming!
Sylvia Layson, Elementary Teacher

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slayson@doe.k12.ga.us

(Right) On Wednesday, Dr. Gibson, the GAB Cafe Team and the EEC students treated our supply and maintenance staff to lunch to say thank you for all the extra flu precautionary measures to keep all the students and staff at GAB well, safe, dry, warm and happy! We are using Z7 and Zep 30 (disinfectants) on surfaces like doorknobs, water fountains, and side rails. Each classroom has Purell dispensers, Clorox wipes and Zepynamic disinfectant sprays. There are additional disinfectant items (Clorox Wipes, Lysol wipes, Instant Hand Sanitizer Gel) available in the Multipurpose room for faculty and staff. See article on page 4 to learn how you can help keep our students and staff well.



On Friday our Senior Chorus opened the GaDOE's 2018 Family Engagement Conference with audience pleasing songs. Our horticulture teacher and students provided the plants on the stage! We had 2 GAB parents and 2 GAB students participate Friday and Saturday with parents and students from all over the state including 3 other parents and 2 other students from State Schools. GAB staff Sonya Milam and Toni Kimbrough participated as presenters alongside 4 other State Schools staff members. We are GAB proud.



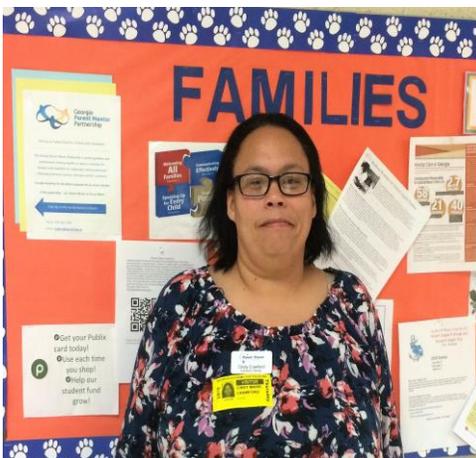
We have received reports that instances of flu-like symptoms in Georgia has almost tripled. Officials say that holiday travel, along with bad weather and the severe strain of flu that is circulating at this time is causing a high number of hospitalizations in Georgia and nationwide. The symptoms of body aches and fatigue and respiratory distress have been especially severe, causing more to be hospitalized. The CDC still recommends flu shots to be the best protection from the virus, while it should be done earlier in the season, it is not too late to obtain one. It can take up to two weeks to be effective.

At home, please follow these important steps for protecting yourself and your family from the flu:

- Avoiding people who are sick as much as possible.
- Covering your cough with the inside of your elbow.
- Wearing a mask if you are sick.
- Staying home until your fever subsides for at least 24 hours and symptoms are relieved. This will prevent other students from possibly being exposed to harmful germs unnecessarily.
- Avoiding carbohydrates and sugar, which lower the strength of your immune system.
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs and counter surfaces.
- If you are feeling sick, see a doctor as soon as possible, there are antiviral medications that may be able to shorten the durations of illness.
- Washing your hands often/ hand sanitizer may be used if soap and water is not available.

At school, we are:

- Diligently cleaning and using Z7 and Zep 30 (disinfectants) on surfaces like doorknobs, water fountains, and side rails.
- Providing each classroom and dorms with Purell dispensers, Clorox wipes and Zepynamic disinfectant sprays.
- Sending staff and students home who present with flu symptoms.
- Reminding our students to cover their mouths if they cough.
- Reminding our students to wash their hands, to eat healthy foods, and drink plenty of water.



Meet Cindy Crawford, the Georgia Academy for the Blind's Transition Partner with Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P). P2P is a not profit organization supporting families with individuals from birth to age 26 who are impacted by disabilities and/or special healthcare needs. All of their services are free including one on one assistance, training, parent matches, parent leadership development, information and resources through archived webinars and an online special needs data base. P2P is contracted by Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency's (GVRA) E3 grant (Explore, Engage and Employ) to provide parents/guardians of youth and young adults at GAB with transition related issues. Ms. Crawford will be working collaboratively with our GVRA assigned VR Counselor, Kathryn Edger, GAB's Transition Specialist, Toni Kimbrough and GAB's Parent Mentor, Sonya Milam with the needs of our students and parents as they prepare for the world when they graduate.



Yes, it's only February! No it is not too early for summer camp registration to begin!
Scholarships and spaces are limited so act now!

Come to the Braille Challenge Parent/Guardian Program and/or our meeting after the Spring Program to meet with these folks and learn more!



Visit their website where you can watch a video and learn more:
<http://www.campdreamga.org/>

ANNOUNCING Camp Dreams 2018 Camper Session Dates

- July 15th – July 18th (Sun. - Wed.)
- July 19th – July 22nd (Thu. - Sun.)
- July 23rd – July 26th (Mon. - Thu.)
- July 27th – July 30th (Fri. - Mon.)

Contact Sonya Milam for more information including how to register and how to apply for a scholarship!



Contact Sonya Milam for more information including how to register and how to apply for a scholarship! Visit their website and watch a video here:

https://hpex.columbusstate.edu/camp_abilities/index.php

ANNOUNCING May 25 - 28, 2018

Camp Abilities Columbus GA at Columbus State University (CSU) is a non-profit (501c) organization for children that are blind or visually impaired. Camp Abilities Columbus, GA is a residential camp that will be open for a maximum of 16 campers, ages 9 to 18 years old who are blind or visually impaired. They will stay on Columbus State University's campus to engage in an array of sports and recreational activities in a safe and developmentally appropriate environment. Sports and recreational activities include: goalball, beep baseball, beep kickball, tandem biking, rock climbing, swimming, soccer, tennis and team building activities.

THIRD NOTICE: Announcing the Georgia Lions Club Camp for the Blind's 2018 SUMMER SCHEDULE



- | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------------------|
| Session 1 | June 10-15 | Family Camp (ages 5-9) |
| Session 2 | June 17-22 | Pre-teen (ages 6-12) |
| Session 3 | June 24-29 | Older Adults (ages 35-up) |
| Session 4 | July 1-06 | Young Adults (ages 18-34) |
| Session 5 | July 8-15 | Teenagers (ages 13-17) |

Deadline line for completed applications is April 21! You may get a paper application or learn how to register and how to apply for a scholarship by contacting Sonya Milam, or go to <http://www.glcb.org/>

Give us your **feedback!** This newsletter is produced by Sonya Milam, Parent Mentor. For comments and suggestions and news items please contact her at 478-262-3303 or smilam@doe.k12.ga.us Also, help others stay **informed** about resources in your community by sharing these with Sonya so she can help get the word out to other families!

