



# Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

December 1, 2017

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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Georgia  
Academy  
for the  
Blind - GAB

[www.gabmacon.org](http://www.gabmacon.org)



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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!

December 21: Winter Student Music Program and Art Show. **THIRD NOTICE: Remember that the Music Program only will take place at nearby Vineville Baptist Church. Art Show, Family Meeting, 3D Printer Exhibition, and student dismissal will be at GAB's Hendricks building. Students will be dismissed from GAB only!**

December 22- January 5: Winter Holiday ~ Classes begin January 8

February 2-3: GaDOE's Family Engagement UnConference, Macon

February 28: Braille Challenge

March 26-30: Spring Break

April 2: Easter Holiday

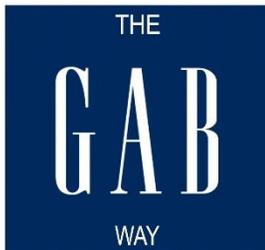
April 5: Prom

April 19-22 SCASB

April 26-29: Senior Trip

May 1: Help a Child Smile Mobile Dental Clinic

May 25: Graduation



Give it your best  
Achieve your goals  
Be respectful



## December Birthdays

~ 5<sup>th</sup> Joshua

~11<sup>th</sup> Caiden, Kaleb & Jartavius

~16<sup>th</sup> Adria

~22 Kiauna

~25 Shyann

~26<sup>th</sup> Dani & Seth

~29<sup>th</sup> Blake & Jermaine

~31<sup>st</sup> James & Logan

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](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us)

## Support After High School *THIRD NOTICE*

Georgia Department of Behavior Health & Developmental Disabilities to Present at the Georgia Academy for the Blind following Winter Music Program

Do you have a child age 10 or older who has a developmental, intellectual or mental disability? Will you need support after graduation?

Immediately following the Winter Program, come learn of the services provided through the Waiver programs that assist with a wide range of services including **employment options**, help with **activities of daily living, building life skills, therapies, respite care** and other supports designed to promote **independence** and **inclusion**.

Also learn about the other flexible services offered by the **Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities** such as **Family Support Services** and specialized resources.

These programs are designed to keep Georgia residents in their homes and included in their communities.

At this presentation you will get your questions answered and learn how to apply for these free services.



DBHDD

**Thursday, December 21 from 11:15 am-12:15 pm**  
**Georgia Academy for the Blind, Hendricks building**  
**2895 Vineville Avenue, Macon, GA**  
**Presented by:**  
**Catherine Ivy, LCSW and Nicki Wilson, MPA**  
**Family Support Managers for DBH/DD**

\*Light refreshments served and a door prize awarded

\*So that we will have ample seating and materials, you must rsvp!  
[smilam@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:smilam@doe.k12.ga.us), 478-262-3303



DBHDD

## Middle Georgia Events:

WAIVER WORKSHOP *Georgia's Medicaid NOW and COMP waiver programs*

**FEATURING HAPPY HOUR ASSOCIATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS**

**DECEMBER 12, 2017**

**4:00 P M - 5:30 P M**

PRESENTED BY BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM'S PROGRAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL, 1775 WILLIAMSON ROAD, MACON 31206

For more information, contact Chanda Crawley at 478-779-4500 or [chanda.crawley@bcsdk12.net](mailto:chanda.crawley@bcsdk12.net)

**Middle Georgia Families, grades 8-12: Save this date!** "Mapping a Self-Determined Future: Where Transition Meets Real Life" will be back in Macon, **January 27, 2017**. You don't want to miss this interactive day with other students and families preparing for life after high school!



# It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!!!!



- ✓ Check out these great gifts for your young children from our friends at Paths to Literacy!



<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/10-tips-selecting-holiday-gifts-young-children-visual-impairments-or-multiple-disabilities>



- ✓ Register here for your child to receive a Brailled letter from Santa who is being helped by our friends from NFBs Jernigan Institute! Deadline is approaching! <https://nfb.org/santa-letters>



Wednesday, Mrs. Barfield's and Mrs. McDavid's classes had a field trip to a local Christmas tree farm where they chose a tree for each of their classrooms.



Stay tuned for a news clip from an Atlanta news station who joined in on all the fun and learning!



# GABWILL

GABWILL will have its grand opening on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. in Cottage 1. The store will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 7:45 a.m. to 8:10 a.m., and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

GABWILL has grown from a Dress for Success class to a Work-Based Learning (WBL) school-based business. It is a collaborative effort to connect career related skills and hands-on knowledge between 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade student workers and 12<sup>th</sup> grade student workers as they offer for sale gently used clothing, shoes, and household items. Sharing among peers is a great way for the student workers to learn customer service, money management skills, clothing care, and organizational skills. Academic skills and work experience go "hand in hand"!!!

Most items are priced \$1 to \$2 – but nothing is more than \$10. All monies received from items sold in GABWILL will go into GAB's student fund.

Students, faculty, and staff AND families PLEASE BRING YOUR MONEY and COME SHOP WITH US!!! We promise you'll take home some great items! We are also accepting gently used items in good condition to sale!



Many thanks to Roni & Ashlyn for the suggestion to open GABWILL . . . the Dress for Success class sparked an interest in being "business owners"!

## THE NEXT STEP

Check out our Transition Newsletter here:

[http://www.gabmacon.org/files/iOIDk/7f83d8a0c0c224b43745a49013852ec4/Transition\\_Newsletter\\_Nov\\_2017.pdf](http://www.gabmacon.org/files/iOIDk/7f83d8a0c0c224b43745a49013852ec4/Transition_Newsletter_Nov_2017.pdf)



# FUNdrai\$ers



Holidays are filled with food and fun. Please remember to check all your food packages for any **BOX TOPS** labels. Check out this list of participating products here! It's more than food items!  
[http://www.gabmacon.org/files/EGBdS\\_82b3641074067f1d3745a49013852ec4/BoxTopsParticipating-Products-Flyer\\_mar2015.pdf](http://www.gabmacon.org/files/EGBdS_82b3641074067f1d3745a49013852ec4/BoxTopsParticipating-Products-Flyer_mar2015.pdf)

Collect, collect, collect, collect. Remember BOX TOPS labels = field trips for us. Thanks for your participation.

If you have any questions contact Sylvia Layson at [slayson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:slayson@doe.k12.ga.us) or call after 3:00 P.M. 478-751-6083 ext 1200. Thanks for all your help!



## Senior Class Lawnmower Ticket Sales Continue

Make a donation of at least **\$10** and get a chance to win this **Hustler Raptor SDX 23hp Kawasaki 54 inch Mower** donated by **Vidalia Small Engine Services** to be given away December 21. Contact a member of the 2018 Senior Class or Rachel Towery, [rtowery@bellsouth.net](mailto:rtowery@bellsouth.net), 912-403-9302

## Senior Class Chick-fil-A Calendar Sales Continue

They are **\$8.00** each and contain a free menu item each month. Supplies are limited, so see a senior class member or staff member to order today!

Mr. Collins, [mcollins@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mcollins@doe.k12.ga.us), or Mrs. Thompson, [mthompson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mthompson@doe.k12.ga.us)



## Applebee's Art

Students are doing black underpainting of the large paper mache totem poles they have been making in art class.

Students are painting stylized designs on the animal that they are each contributing to the totem poles. Each animal is symbolic.

