



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

**Friday, March 1, 2024**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

2895 Vineville Ave.

Macon, GA



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## Mark your Calendar

3/2 - Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser at GAB

3/4 - Celebrate *Read Across America Day*

3/7 - Braille Challenge at GAB

3/28 - Spring Concert at 10:30AM

3/29 through 4/5 - Spring Break

4/11 through 4/14 - SCASB Track & Field

5/9 - Spring Musical 10:30AM & 6:30PM

5/10 - Spring Musical 10:30AM

5/16 - Prom at GAB

5/23 - Graduation



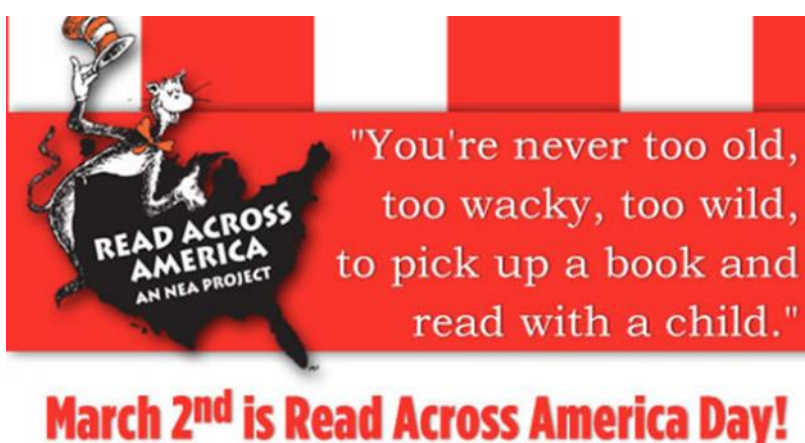
5/24 - Last Day of School



## Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have come to the end of another quarter and another month. Quarter three and February are now in the books, and we are welcoming all that our fourth quarter and March will bring. We are “riding the wave” to the end of another school year and we thank you, our parents/guardians, for continuing to support us through this transitional period. As you peruse this week’s newsletter, celebrate with us the amazing accomplishments and talents of our students and staff. The theme for our Black History program this year was A Celebration of Black History through the Arts. Through the amazing collaboration of our teachers and staff, our guests were treated to an hour of artistry through songs, dances, spoken words, and drumming. You would be amazed at the display of talent from our students and staff which made the occasion that much more memorable.

March 2, 2024 is Read Across America Day. Launched in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA), Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading. **On Monday, March 4, 2024, we will celebrate Read Across America day** through a variety of games and activities that promote literacy and the joy of reading! Please encourage your child to wear GAB spirit wear and help us celebrate this EXTRA SPECIAL day! As our parents/guardians, we ask that you continue to promote literacy in your homes by encouraging your child/children to read each day.



Again, we thank you for entrusting your children to us and we appreciate your support as we work together to ensure that they are receiving the best education and transitional support possible. **We are proud of what we do... that's the GAB Way!**

**Best Wishes,**

**Alicia M. Jackson**

**Interim School-Level Superintendent**



## A Celebration of Black History through the Arts





GAB Families,



**KIDS  
HEART  
CHALLENGE™**

**AMERICAN  
HEART  
CHALLENGE™**

Get ready for the American Heart Association's Heart Challenge! This year, our school will be learning about staying strong in body and mind. We'll get moving with fun activities and raise funds for the health of all hearts. Plus, they'll feel good for doing good!

**Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>  
-Purple**



*Our last Wellness Wednesday in the month of February. Staff & students wore all shades of Purple!*



If you would like to make a donation, please make any checks payable to the American Heart Association and send them in a labeled envelope. Have your child turn them in to Mrs. McDavid. We will be collecting donations until March 4th.

**Thank you for keeping more hearts beating strong!**

**Dawn McDavid**

Teacher: Physical Education and Health

Georgia Academy for the Blind



There were only five state-wide winners for the first annual Cybersecurity Poster Contest, and our very own, **Demorion Jackson** was one of them! He and Mrs. Applebee took the bus to Atlanta last Thursday to attend the Board of Education meeting where he was presented a giant-sized version of his poster in a frame by State Superintendent, Richard Woods. The Chief Technology Officer, Keith Osborn, thanked **D.J.** for his efforts to "inspire others and make a real difference in cybersecurity awareness in education." He was also told, "Your work and your efforts have paid off and you should be incredibly proud of what you accomplished." His poster will hang in the school, and another will hang in the twin towers in Atlanta.









Georgia Academy for the Blind



## **TOURNAMENT**

To benefit the Students of GAB

**When:** Saturday, March 2, 2024

Registration 10:00 a.m.

\$40 per team of two (**cash or check**)

Tournament 11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Georgia Academy for the Blind  
2895 Vineville Ave, Macon

Our tournament is sponsored by **C&W Contracting** this year.  
This an event you won't want to miss!

### **\$1000 Cash Payout:**

1<sup>st</sup> place - \$500

2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$300

3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$200

**Shot in the  
Dark Contest**

**Family Fun**



# 😱😱 My kid did **WHAT?!?!!** 😱😱



## **FACTS:**

- 1) The Internet can be a very dangerous place.
- 2) Kids don't always make the best decisions.
- 3) Things posted online are permanent.

**Do you know what your children are doing online?**

**HELP IS ON THE WAY!**

## **Join us for an EMPOWERING workshop for FAMILIES!**

- Learn the dangers kids face on the internet and ways you can help protect them.
- Discuss online enticement, sextortion, and cyberbullying with professionals.
  - Take away tools to help monitor your children's online activities.
- Hear from one of our very own parents whose child was groomed by sex traffickers for two years and what unfolded when traffickers showed up at school to take her.

## **ZOOM IN**

(links coming soon)

**March 5<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 – English & ASL**

**March 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 – English & Spanish**

**Special Agent April Griffith** works with the **Exploitation of Children and Computer Crimes Unit** of the **Georgia Bureau of Investigation** where she conducts investigations involving crimes against children on the internet and commercial sexual exploitation of children. S/A Griffith holds degrees in both Psychology and Criminal Justice and has trained local law enforcement across the state in how to deal with those that suffer from mental illness, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases.



# 😱😱 Mi hijo hizo **¿QUÉ???** 😱😱



## HECHOS:

- 1) Internet puede ser un lugar muy peligroso.
- 2) Los niños no siempre toman las mejores decisiones.
- 3) Las cosas publicadas en línea son permanentes.

## **¿Sabes qué hacen tus hijos en línea?**

### **¡Únase a nosotros en un taller para EMPODERAR a las FAMILIAS!**

- Conozca los peligros que enfrentan los niños y jóvenes en Internet y las formas en que usted puede protegerlos.
- Hable sobre la incitación en línea, la sextorsión y el ciberacoso con profesionales.
  - Tome las herramientas para ayudar a monitorear las actividades en línea de sus hijos.
- Escuche a uno de nuestros propios padres cuya hija fue involucrada emocionalmente por traficantes sexuales durante dos años y lo que ocurrió cuando los traficantes aparecieron en la escuela para

## **¡LA AYUDA ESTÁ EN CAMINO!**

### **Por ZOOM**

(enlaces próximamente)

5 de marzo – 7:30 pm – en inglés y en ASL

7 de marzo – 7:30 pm – en inglés y en español

La agente especial April Griffith trabaja con la Unidad de Explotación Infantil y Delitos Informáticos de la Oficina de Investigaciones de Georgia, donde lleva a cabo investigaciones sobre delitos contra niños en Internet y explotación sexual comercial de niños. S/A Griffith tiene títulos en Psicología y Justicia Penal y ha capacitado a las autoridades locales en todo el estado sobre cómo tratar con quienes padecen enfermedades mentales, discapacidades del desarrollo y enfermedades adictivas.

# March 2024

## Birthdays

Zy	3/4	B.J.	3/28
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Charles	3/14	Sammy	3/29
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Destiny	3/14	Noble	3/31
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Ja'Mikel	3/17		
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