



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

January 12, 2018

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 *just added

January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

*January 16-19: Spirit Week (see page 3 for details)

*January 18 – 21 SCASB Wrestling and Cheer Competitions, Fine Arts Show Case at Oklahoma School for the Blind

January 25: Art Students exhibit at Goodwill's Artist Show, Oklahoma School for the Blind

*January 29: Monday Media Mania and EECC Coffee Club

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

*February 13: EECC Valentines Dance, Media Center

February 19: Presidents' Day Holiday

February 28: Braille Challenge - - Programs for parents/guardians are planned!

March 26-30: Spring Break

April 2: Easter Holiday

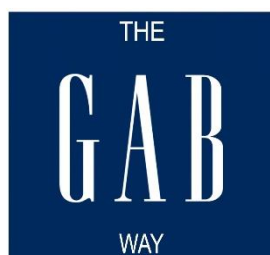
April 5: Prom

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

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please remember, GAB will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, on Monday, January 15. Residential students will return Monday evening. Classes resume Tuesday, January 16.



Long weekend idea: check out these fun kitchen activities from a mother of a blind child that will help with literacy and independence skills! <http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/using-task-analysis-promote-independence>

New Year's Resolutions



As the new year begins, we are asking all families to commit to reading this newsletter each week. We do everything possible to keep *Panther Press* relevant and concise. Our goal is to tell stories and share pictures of your children, provide resources and include ways to help your child with school when they are home.

Calendar items are always included. *Panther Press* is posted on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Georgia.Academy.for.the.Blind/>) every Thursday evening then emailed every Friday morning.

When you are aware of a resource in your community that other students and families would benefit, let us know about it so that we can share!

Many communication breakdowns can happen that negatively affect students. What can you do?

- ✓ Keep your contact information current. Let us know if there is ever a change of address, email or phone number.
- ✓ Thoroughly read this and all communication coming from GAB.
- ✓ Promptly respond to requests for your input on surveys and other items.
- ✓ Subscribe to REMIND, our auto texting system. Simply text "REMIND" your name, and student's name to 478-262-3303. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Thank you for your commitment and partnership.



~5th Devoneta

~10th Shakira

~14th John

~15th Johnny

~23rd Morgan

~24th Dente

~24th Destiny G.

~25th Destiny I.

~30th Sydney

~31st Jamari



Calling all collectors: We need you to please send in your collection of Box Tops. We are approaching our goal of 1,000 Box Tops. **Remember the person who sends in the most in January gets a surprise.** Thanks for all the hard work. We will try and start a total for each month and let you see the progress. Sylvia Layson 478-751-6083 ext. 1200

slayson@doe.k12.ga.us





JANUARY 16 - 19

Honoring our SCASB (South Central
Association of Schools for the Blind's
Wrestling and Cheering competitions and
Fine Arts Showcase

TUESDAY is **SUPER HERO** DAY!



WEDNESDAY is **PANTHER PRIDE** DAY!
AND PEP RALLY @ 2:00 PM in the gym



THURSDAY is **THROWBACK DECADES** DAY!
SCASB Participants Depart



Thank you Dr. Gibson for your support!



FRIDAY is **FREEDOM** DAY!

Thank you Mrs. Holloway for all arrangements for our athletes and musicians!

Parents/Guardians, Please Assist Us!9

Attention! It is time for the **Annual Georgia Parent Survey**. This online, anonymous survey only takes about 5 minutes to complete and is your opportunity to provide feedback to GAB and the Georgia Department of Education. Georgia Parent Survey is important because the data will be used as part of the calculation of the School Climate Star Rating. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. The Georgia Parent Survey is also available in Spanish. Parents may select the Spanish version within the survey. Results from the Georgia Parent Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online. The Georgia Parent Survey link is posted below. Thank you in advance for taking time out of your busy day to be involved in helping improve your child's school!

The survey can be found
at:
<http://gshs.gadoe.org/parents> or with a Smart
Phone using this code:



*The first line asks for School System. Here
you scroll down to STATE SCHOOLS. You
will then be prompted to choose Georgia
Academy for the Blind.*



5th Annual Middle Georgia Conference

“Mapping a Self Determined Future: Where Transition Meets Real Life”

Saturday, January 27, 2018

8:30-1:00 PM (Conference and breakfast will begin promptly!)

Bibb County School District's Professional Learning Building

2007 Riverside Drive

Macon, GA 31204

This free one day conference that comes with breakfast is designed to allow teachers, families and students with disabilities to come together to dream of the possibilities for a full life after graduation. There will be a youth leadership track, a college bound track and a career/community track.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

<https://tinyurl.com/MGRTC2018>

If you need assistance with registration, contact
Sonya Milam 478-262-3303 smilam@doe.k12.ga.us

Middle Georgia Families! Baseball Season at Miracle League of Macon is now accepting registration applications. Go to: <http://www.mlmacon.org/Forms/PlayersReg2018.pdf>



Families throughout, Georgia: Remember to share your community resources with Sonya Milam to help get the word out to other families! smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303

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



