



# Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

November 17, 2017

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent  
2895 Vineville Avenue

Macon, GA 31204

478-751-6083

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



Georgia  
Academy  
for the  
Blind - GAB



Follow our  
library:  
[@gab\\_library](https://twitter.com/gab_library)

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!

November 20-24: Thanksgiving Break

December 21: Winter Student Music Program and Art Show. Family Meeting before after. Hustler Raptor Mower Raffle Winner chosen. 3D printer exhibition. **\*\* SEE BELOW FOR NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM MRS. HOLLOWAY AND DR. GIBSON!**

December 22- January 5: Winter Holiday

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

February 28: Braille Challenge

March 26-30: Spring Break

April 2: Easter Holiday

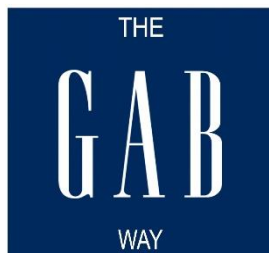
April 5: Prom

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

## November Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> ~ J 'Miyah

8<sup>th</sup> ~ Chris

16<sup>th</sup> ~ Crystal

17<sup>th</sup> ~ Judy

20<sup>th</sup> De'andre

Happy Thanksgiving to all our GAB students, staff, family and friends! Whether you are traveling or "stay-cationing" we wish you a very safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday! Did you know that having your child help you plan, shop for, and prepare a meal reinforces math, literacy and Extended Core Curriculum skills! Check out these great tips on enlisting help from your child from our friends at AFB's *Family Connect*:

<https://www.familyconnect.org/blog/familyconnect-a-parents-voice/inspired-by-the-holidays-enlisting-the-help-of-your-child-who-is-blind-or-visually-impaired-with-your-thanksgiving-meal-preparation/12>

Encourage your child to read over this week off! Maybe enjoy a family read aloud with the family! On the last page of this newsletter is a fun literacy activity to do over the break. Help your child complete this and return to their teacher when school begins again on November 27.

We are thankful for each of our students and their families. We look forward to our residential students return on Sunday, November 26 and classes resuming on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

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)

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**\*\*Second notice: PLEASE DON'T FORGET**, the location of the Winter Program will be at **Vineville Baptist Church**, 2591 Vineville Avenue (.5 miles east of GAB). Students will be transported to and from the church by bus. **Parents/Guardians are to check their children out at the school and NOT take them from the church.** We want to make sure all students are safely and securely transported back to the school after the program. This is a mandatory performance, and all students will receive credit for the performance. If you are signing your child out before the 1:00 p.m. end of the day, **sign out in the Hendricks office.** See Shirley Bronner and Brittany Jackson. Thank you!!

The students are very excited about this performance opportunity. We hope you will be able to join us to support GAB and our music department!

### Additional notes:

- Dismissal for all students is 1 pm this day.
- The **Student Art Show** will still take place before and after the Winter Program beginning at 8 am and ending at 1 pm in the GAB Hendricks building.
- The family presentation will take place in the GAB Hendricks building immediately following the Winter Program and will conclude by 1:00. There will be **no** meetings before the Winter Program this year. Details below.

## Support After High School Georgia Department of Behavior Health & Developmental Disabilities

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.



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



## AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

### GAB Project SEARCH at Navicent

By Angel Lopez, Graduating Senior and Project Search Intern



Project SEARCH at Navicent Health is on the move! We had many things going on for the last of October and for the month of November. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, we participated in Navicent's annual Halloween Parade. We contributed to this event by purchasing candy and handing it out to the children who are patients at Navicent Children's Hospital. Staff members dressed up and departments decorated their areas to provide the children with a fun experience!

We also recognized White Cane Day on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. White Cane Day brings awareness about the blind and visually impaired community and we are also using this opportunity to bring awareness to the Project SEARCH program at Navicent Health. We filed baggies with Braille and print information regarding Project SEARCH. We also placed candy canes and gum ball eyeballs in the bags and my fellow interns and I passed them out to customers at Navicent's Create Café and the cafeteria.



Finally, all three of us are working in our first rotations this fall. I am now working in the Linen Services department where I do stocking, make deliveries, and make sure everything's in good shape. My colleague, Mr. Evans, is working at Create's restaurant where he wipes down the tables and booths, makes sure all condiments are well stocked, washes dishes, and other duties as assigned. Ms. Brooks is working in Central Supply where she does bagging and tagging of equipment, pulls and delivers supplies to different departments, answers the phone, and other duties as assigned.



This past week GAB Project SEARCH at Navicent interns spotlighted the Transportation Department of Georgia Academy for the Blind. This department has been very helpful in bringing us to Navicent hospital every day since our program began back in August.

Mr. Harris has been key in helping us with our transportation needs. He is the person that is over all of the bus drivers at GAB. He has helped by providing us with drivers to take us to and from Navicent each day. He has also helped us by sending a driver when we were late to work, or when we were sent back to GAB because we were out of dress code.

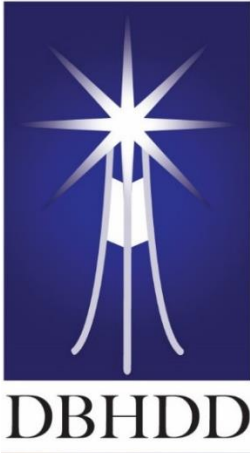
Mr. Harris is not the only important person on this team. Mr. Willy, Mr. Herschel, and Mr. and Mrs Daniels have also been helpful in driving us to work each morning. We are learning to use other modes of transportation when coming back from the hospital, but they are still very important to us. We would like to thank Mr. Harris and all of the bus drivers at GAB. We truly appreciate everything they've done for us.

As you can see, we never have a dull moment! Through Project SEARCH we are not only developing valuable job skills, but we are also learning how to be charitable as well as other skills that will enable us to be well-rounded and productive members in our communities.





# Middle Georgia Events:



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health  
and Developmental Disabilities

## PUBLIC FORUM

November 20, 2017

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

River Edge Assembly Room

175 Emery Hwy, Macon, GA 31217

Join us to learn more about the services offered in  
your community by the Department of Behavioral  
Health and Developmental Disabilities

Hosted by DBHDD Region 2 Advisory Council, River Edge Behavioral Health and  
Coliseum Medical Centers

**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!





## Orientation and Mobility Tips

Vocabulary word for the week: Constant-contact technique – shoulder -width, side-to-side sweeping technique in which the cane is in constant contact with the ground. We sometimes refer to this as ‘sweeping’ the cane also.

Please encourage your child to use constant-contact technique when in your community.

For example, say: “Sweep side to side across your body” or “sweep left and right across your body.” Or you may just say, “Use constant-contact technique.”

Note: Some of our students don’t use this technique but instead use another.

*Robin Cruise, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist ACVREP*

## Media Center News

**LATEST NEWS:** Our latest **Donors Choose** project was funded! We will be receiving 18 new titles for our teen collection. Thanks for all who donated and shared!

**DON'T FORGET!** Before and after the Winter Music Program and Art Show there will be a live exhibition of our new 3D printer in action in the GAB Tech Lab. Make plans to attend!

**DON'T FORGET!** Follow us on twitter! gab\_library



Mrs. Kim Smith, Media Specialist

[kismith@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:kismith@doe.k12.ga.us), 478-751-6083 ext 1280



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) 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 until December 20! Winner will be announced following the Winter Program on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Make a donation of at least \$10 and get a chance to win a Hustler Raptor SDX Kawasaki 54 inch Mower donated by Vidalia Small Engine Services. Contact a member of the 2018 Senior Class or Rachel Towery, [rtowery@bellsouth.net](mailto:rtowery@bellsouth.net), 912-403-9302

**Senior Class Fundraiser** Calendars **still** on sale! 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! These make perfect gifts for the holidays!

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



# Building Literacy

## Let's Play READO!

READO ... It's just like BINGO! You do five activities in a line --across, up, down, or diagonally!

Return your completed READO sheet to your first period teacher and a prize awaits you from your Parent Involvement Coordinator! Student's name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

R	E	A	D	O
Read a poem to a family member	Listen to a family member read a story.	Bring a library book home and read to a family member	Read a story and talk to a family member about the main character.	Make up a scary story and tell it to a family member.
Listen to a family member tell a story about something they remember about school.	Read a story with a family member. Compare yourself to a character.	Read a story. Tell your family member about the story's setting.	Select a book. You read a page then your family member reads a page. Take turns reading to each other.	Read two pages in a book to a family member showing great expression.
You read a story. Think of 5 words to describe the story.	Talk with a family member and make a prediction about a story you are reading.	<b>FREE</b>	Read a story together. Discuss and create a new title for the story.	Read a story with your family. Talk about what you and they liked about the story.
Read a non-fiction story with a family member. Tell 2 facts you learned from the book.	Make up a story during dinner. Each person at the table needs to add a part to the story.	Read a story together. Have your family member to describe 5 words in the story.	Have a family member read an interesting newspaper article to you. Retell the article in your own words.	<b>Read a story by yourself.</b>
Make a prediction about a story before reading it. Discuss your prediction.	Read a story and talk about the main characters.	Read a story. Ask someone to describe the illustrations to you.	<b>Help a family member write a grocery list.</b>	Listen to a family member tell something that happened to them. Then you retell the story in your own words.

(Adapted with permission  
from Georgia School for the Deaf • Title I School)



