



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

January 24th, 2020

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

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Macon, GA 31204

478-751-6083



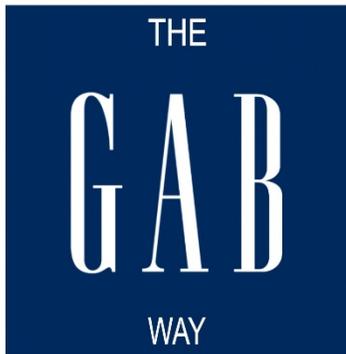
Georgia Academy for the Blind - GAB



Follow our library:

@gablibrary

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. *Check out this student produced video featuring this Mission Statement:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRrbhKGSe98>



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful



Don't miss out on important announcements from our Parent Mentor.

Text your student's name and your name to 478-262-3303 and you will be subscribed to *Family Engagement @*

Mark Your Calendars

February 1: Self Determination Conference, Macon

February 12: Valentine's Dance-Media Center at 6pm

February 14: Valentine's Day – Dr. Love Week

February 17: Presidents' Day - **Holiday**

March 5 – Braille Challenge at GAB!

March 27: Spring Program- Reynolds Auditorium

March 28-30: New York Trip, Mrs. Holloway

March 30–April 3: Spring Break Week – **Holiday**

April 9: Prom Night at GAB

April 13: Monday after Easter – **Holiday**

April 23-26: Senior Trip

May 20: Graduation at GAB

May 22: Last day of School

This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor/Family Engagement Specialist, Jennifer Minter. Please send your ideas, news and resources in your community to her. JMinter@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303. ***Please remember to contact her if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!***

Ring in

2020

at GAB!

Students have been ringing in the New Year with our interactive bulletin board! Having tactile and sensory items on the board benefits all of our students!





Georgia Academy for the Blind

Macon, Georgia

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH PROJECT 2019-20

“Canes for Kenya”

WHY: It has come to the attention of Georgia Academy for the Blind, through information from Ken Medema, a blind musician and founder of the non-profit organization, Interlude, that several schools for the Blind in Kenya, South Africa, have no canes nor dedicated orientation and mobility instruction for 300 students. Currently students get around their schools with one student acting as a guide and other students following behind with hands on shoulders. They have extremely limited or no access for off campus mobility. Additionally, assistive technology devices are also in very short supply. Georgia Academy for the Blind, in collaboration with Interlude, plans to address these needs through our international outreach program, “Canes for Kenya”.

WHAT: “Canes for Kenya” is an outreach project of Georgia Academy for the Blind, in collaboration with Interlude, to provide 300+ good condition used canes of all sizes and/ or other good condition used assistive technology devices, as well as a visiting Orientation and Mobility Specialist to students of First School for the Blind ; Machakos Technical Institute for the Blind; Thika Primary School for the Blind; and Kibos Primary School for the Blind in Kenya, South Africa. We will be contacting our US sister schools for the blind as well as others who might have used canes and/or other used assistive technology devices available to donate to the project.

WHEN: “Canes for Kenya” will be taking gently worn, good condition canes and/or other assistive technology .now through the end of April. The target date for shipping is May 1, 2020. GAB Student Council, assisted by GAB Café workers, as well as interested classes, will be preparing snacks as an in-house fundraiser during February and March. Funds raised will provide additional canes for Canes for Kenya.

HOW: For more information, please contact Mary Keith:

mkeith@doe.k12.ga.us (subject Canes for Kenya)

478-751-6983, ext 1270 (leave a message for Mary Keith with Deborah

Please mark your calendars for this event in the Middle Georgia area:

**Join us for the Annual Self-Determination Conference
Hosted by
The Middle Georgia Regional Transition Council**



“Opening Doors to Opportunity”



Westside High School

**2851 Heath Road
Macon, GA 31206**

**Saturday, February 1, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**



**Free transition conference for students with disabilities,
their families and educators!**

Register at the link listed below:

tinyurl.com/selfdetermination2020

- ❖ *Meet with state and local disability support providers and agency representatives*
- ❖ *Learn about the transition from school to post-secondary, self-advocacy skills for persons with disabilities and assistive technology*
- ❖ *Post-secondary education opportunities*
- ❖ *Visit with educators in a relaxed environment about opportunities for your child*
- ❖ *Become involved in planning for your child’s future*

For more information contact:

Dr. Jaquel Johnson – jaquel.johnson@hcbe.net

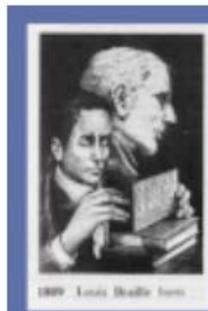
Dr. Damita James – djames@mgresa.us

Mrs. Michele Wilson-(478) 988-7177

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jestine	1/3
Devoneta	1/5
Malcolm	1/8
John	1/14
Brayden	1/21
Morgan	1/23
Ayden	1/24
Destiny	1/24
Jamari	1/31

January 4th, 1809



Happy
Birthday,
Louis Braille!