



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

January 10th, 2020 – New Year!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

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478-751-6083



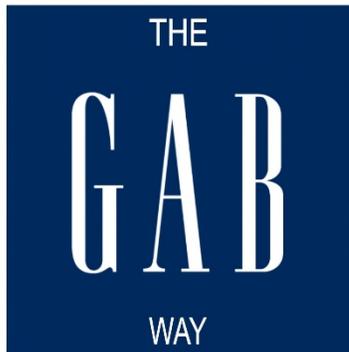
Georgia Academy for the Blind - GAB



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

Mark Your Calendars

January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. – Holiday

January 23-25: SCASB in Austin, Texas

February 17: Presidents' Day

March 5 – Braille Challenge at GAB!

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



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 @*

SCASB Trip leaving on January 22nd:

Due to travel time, the participants along with chaperones and coaches will be leaving GAB after school finishes, Wednesday January 22nd, and will return Monday, January 27th around 3:00 PM. All meals for participants will be provided by GAB; however, participants are responsible for anything extra between meals. Make sure that your child has some extra spending money for those snacking opportunities. Suggested amount is \$25.00.

PACKING LIST:

- 4 pairs of pants (jeans, leggings, sweatpants, shorts, ect...)
- 4 shirts (t-shirt, long sleeve, sweatshirt, ect...)
- 1 or 2 pairs of pajamas
- 4 pairs of clean underwear
- 4 pairs of clean socks
- Tennis shoes (if not wearing them when boarding)
- Toiletries (shampoo, tooth brush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant)
- Banquet outfit
- Cheer/Wrestling outfit

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!**

January is:

NATIONAL BRAILLE LITERACY MONTH

This month, we recognize and honor the legally blind and visually impaired for National Braille Literacy Month. The mission of this month is to raise awareness of the importance of Braille to the blind and visually impaired community. As audio technology progresses, the use of braille dwindles... But its significance remains, especially in the workplace and the classroom. This is a time to learn about and appreciate Braille and everything it's done to help the visually impaired all over the world for more than a century. In case you don't know much about Braille, here are a few fun facts to get you in the know.

1. **Braille is not a language.** As a matter of fact, most languages have their own Braille system.
2. **Louis Braille created this system of reading around age 12** after being blinded in a tragic accident at 3 years old. It became official in 1824.
3. 6-dot **Braille cells have 63 possible combinations.** Each "cell" in Braille is arranged in a specific way with two dots across, and three dots down.
4. **Braille exists for feet, too!** Businesses actually have to meet standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act, and one of those standards is to have Braille on the ground to keep them out of dangerous areas. You know those big, bright, yellow strips you see at the ends of sidewalks and sometimes as you walk out of a store or restaurant? That's Braille for your feet.
5. A majority of legally blind children in the U.S. **don't** use Braille resources. Believe it or not, **34% of the more than 59 thousand legally blind American children are considered non-readers.**

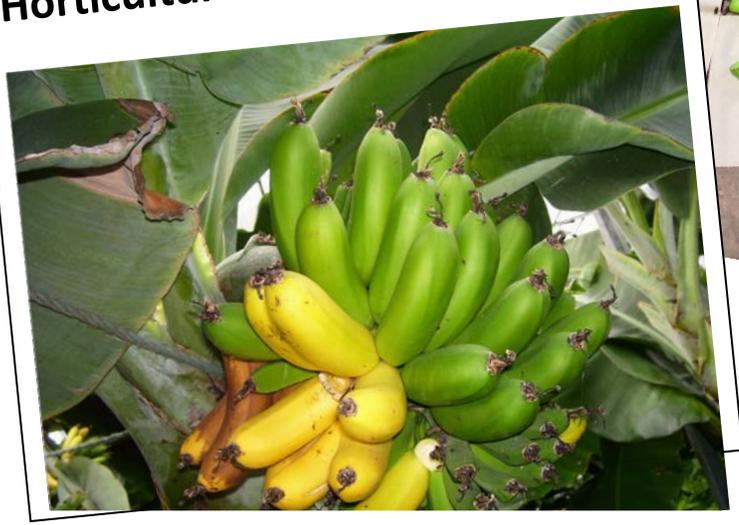
HOW TO OBSERVE

Use #NationalBrailleLiteracyMonth, #BrailleLiteracyMonth, or #BrailleLiteracy to post on social media about how you are taking part in National Braille Literacy Month. To celebrate National Braille Literacy Month, reach out to someone you know who is blind or visually impaired and have them show you how they read Braille... You'll be amazed at the process! You can also help by getting connected with the [American Foundation for the Blind](#).

Senior Horticulture students harvested 2 stalks of bananas that had been growing since August. Total number of bananas is 140! They are harvested green and could take a week or two to get ripe. Our students say that the GAB bananas are sweeter than the store bought bananas.



Horticulture with Mr. Blackwell:





Georgia Academy for the Blind

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Administration Building ■ 478-751-6083 ■ 478-751-6659 (Fax)

www.gabmacon.org

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School Climate Star Rating Survey Georgia Parent Survey

Parents:

Your feedback is needed! Please assist the Georgia Academy for the Blind in maintaining our climate star rating. We work to ensure that all our students are educated in a positive and safe environment. Simply scan the QR code above or enter the website to be taken directly to the parent survey. Thank you in advance for your participation!

QR Code:



Website:

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/parents>

What is School Climate? "School Climate refers to the quality and character of school life. School Climate is based on patterns of students', parents', and school personnel's experience of school life and reflects norms, goals, values, interpersonal interactions, teaching and learning practices and organizational structures." -National School Climate Center

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!