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You are receiving this monthly eNewsletter because you or your child is enrolled in the children’s programs at the Center for the Visually Impaired. These updates will come to your inbox every first Friday of the month.

Happenings in January

BEGIN

Make a Gift Today!
At this time of year, we are especially thankful for the year-round
Teacher-Parent Communication
By Nancy Jennings

As a parent you have many opportunities to communicate with your child’s teachers, whether it is in IEP meetings or through email, and it is important to know how to communicate effectively with each other. Here are a few tips to improve that vital communication.

Since it is important to get to know your child’s teachers, the U.S. Department of Education suggests you talk to your teachers early and often:

- Attending school open houses is a great way to learn about teaching strategies, the curriculum and upcoming assignments.
- Make time to volunteer for a class outing or help in the classroom.
- Teachers often need assistance in the classroom with purchasing needed classroom supplies. If you are interested, [here](#) is a link to our wish list.
- Communicating with a teacher through a quick email is a good way to find out about homework or events, or explain absences. However, do not use email as a substitute for attending conferences or IEP meetings since your participation at these meetings is vital to your child’s education.
- Keep any communication professional and courteous. Parents who exhibit aggressive or threatening behavior during meetings do little to help their child.
- If you are having issues with special education services, advocate for your child by speaking up in meetings, providing written documentation, discussing alternatives, communicating your child’s needs, or writing an agenda.

Parent Info & Resources

- [Center for the Visually Impaired](#)
- [Georgia Department of Education – Visual Impairment/Blindness](#)
- [American Printing House for the Blind (APH)](#)
- [Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI)](#)
- [Paths to Literacy](#)
- [Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)](#)
- [The Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC)](#)
- [Special Education Services and Supports (Georgia)](#)
- [Individualized Education Plan – Explained!](#)
- [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)](#)
- [GaPINES](#)
- [Georgia Sensory Support of the wonderful people that are part of the CVI community. We couldn’t provide the life-changing programs we offer without your generous commitment. Please make a gift today! It is easy and secure to make a gift online on our Donate Now page.]
for the next meeting. Some parents compile a long list of complaints, but it can be more effective to stick to one or two issues at a time.

These and other strategies for resolving parent-school conflicts can be found in the book, From Emotions to Advocacy, by Pam and Pete Wright. As a parent, you can get emotional support and good information from other parents, from the internet, and from CVI staff. Please let our BEGIN and STARS teachers know if you need their assistance in preparation for IEP meetings.

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**STARS**

(Picture of Jasmine, Kate and Kennedi)

Special Guest, March 17th
3:00-3:45 PM

Join us for a demonstration by Jim Franklin, teacher of special education at Elm Street Elementary in Rome, GA, who invented a number line to help students round numbers up to 10,000,000. View a variety of math manipulatives that address the standards of fractions, decimals, elapsed time, weight, and money. Learn math tips that are applicable for students with visual impairments.

Audio Description Project — American Council of the Blind

Please see the resources below for locating movie theaters, DVD/Blue ray movies, and museums that include described media. Thank you to our own Calvin Lee for the information!

http://www.acb.org/adp/moviesbystate.html
http://ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/locations.html
http://www.captionfish.com/
http://www.acb.org/adp/dvds.html

New Website for GLASS
(Georgia Library for Accessible Services)

This new website from GLASS (Georgia Library for Accessible Services) was created for consumers to find an overview of the services available both in Georgia and in their specific geographical area, points of contact for programs and services, and information and links to accessible news and reading

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Joy McFather, M.Ed.
BEGIN Teacher of the Visually Impaired
This resource serves as a compilation of the programs that serve Georgia's blind and visually impaired population. Some organizations are included despite being administered in states other than Georgia. If that is the case, that organization has satellites that serve Georgia or they operate on a national basis. Programs are classified into 7 major areas which you can enter as search terms to narrow your search: student, health & social services, recreational reading, assistive technology, career & vocational, comprehensive or universal, child centered.

**Mark Your Calendars**

- **February 5** – BEGIN Music & Movement Class –10:30 AM
- **February 19** – BEGIN Music & Movement Class –10:30 AM
- **February 24** – Saturday Academy – 4:00-6:00 PM*
- **February 24** – Red & White Ball – 6:00-9:00 PM
- **March 17** – Saturday Academy – 3:00-5:00 PM*
- **March 17** – Casino Night – 5:00-8:00 PM
- **February 25** – Cruise with CVI

*Please note a time change in programming.

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**Spotlight**

**STARS Red and White Ball**

(Picture of Grace and Matthew)

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**STARS** students will have a chance to attend the annual Red and White Ball hosted by the Delta Gamma Sorority Saturday, February 24th, from 6:00-9:00 PM at the All Saints Episcopal Church. The church is located at 634 West Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30308. This event is for our STARS students ages 10 and up (they are welcome to bring a friend as well). The Red and White Ball will allow students to gather for a night of dancing, socializing, and fun — ending the evening with the crowning of King and Queen of the Ball! An email will be sent with further information about the event. We look forward to seeing you all there!!

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**CVI News**

You are invited, along with your friends and family, to a special event!

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Center for the Visually Impaired

739 West Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308

2:00 PM-4:30 PM

Join us for light refreshments, client speakers, and a cruise around CVI to experience our client training first-hand, including white cane techniques, braille, assistive technology and much more!

Collect stamps on your passport as you travel to various ports throughout the building for your chance to win a travel package!
Please RSVP to Deborah Burcham at 404-602-4279 or dburcham@cviga.org by February 19.