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 February

BEGIN

(Picture of BEGIN student Max)

Special Gift

The BEGIN staff are extremely grateful for a $1,000 donation (from one of our families) towards the purchase of updated technology for use in the Preschool classroom. The donation received from this family and other contributors have allowed BEGIN to purchase three 4th generation iPads with retina displays to use with the students. BEGIN is truly thankful for the kindness and continued support: we’re looking forward to getting the new technology integrated into the classroom setting.

Make a Gift Today!
At this time of year, we are especially thankful for the year-round 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.
Arctic Animal Takeover

The BEGIN Preschoolers have been busy engaging in a winter/arctic animal theme during the month of February. The book *Polar Bear Polar Bear What Do You Hear?* has been the driving force for sensory activities including building a snowman to support fine motor skills, a miniature Antarctica bin complete with land/sea animals and a freezing cold glacier submerged in water, and identifying the animals in the book using combined senses. Our students are receiving individualized lessons based on their unique needs, including pre-Braille, integrating the use of auditory clues and/or familiar textures for identification and matching, and orientation & mobility.

Additional Resources for Families

- Understood (for learning & attention issues)-Understood is a comprehensive, free online resource to support parents of kids with learning and attention issues and empower them to help their children thrive in school and in life. [https://www.understood.org/en](https://www.understood.org/en)
- The Kinship Navigator Program serves as a one-stop shop for information and referral services to grandparents, relatives, and other caregivers who are currently raising children who are related to them. [https://dhs.georgia.gov/kinship-navigator-program](https://dhs.georgia.gov/kinship-navigator-program)
- Parent to Parent of Georgia-No matter the disability or health concern, Parent to Parent of Georgia can help by matching you with another parent with similar experiences. [http://p2pga.org/](http://p2pga.org/)

STARS

( Picture of STARS summer camp)

On Monday, February 19th, the STARS staff gave a presentation to sixty-seven 5th graders at the Galloway School. STARS staff members Joan Emerson, Myra Wheat, and Aracely Rosillo gave an engaging and informational presentation on visual impairment and awareness. The students were able to ask questions about living with vision loss and participate in hands-on activities specially designed by staff. STARS thanks the Galloway School for having us give this presentation, and to Joan, Myra, and Aracely for their hard work and commitment to the mission of the Center for the Visually Impaired.

COMING SOON!

Be on the lookout for our STARS Summer Enrichment Program paperwork. *We are offering a DISCOUNT to any family who registers prior to April 2nd.*
• Week 1: June 4th - June 7th, 9 AM – 3 PM - $160; discount - $140
• Week 2: June 11th – June 14th, 9 AM – 3 PM - $160;
  Preregistration discount - $140
• Week 3: June 18th – June 21st, 9 AM – 3 PM - $160;
  Preregistration discount - $140
• Week 4: June 25th – June 28th, 9 AM – 3 PM - $160;
  Preregistration discount - $140

*Transportation can be provided for an additional $10 per day of program.

What’s Different This Summer?

• FOUR weeks in the month of June
• Each week is open to ALL AGES
• Each week will run Monday – Thursday (We hope to provide our families with more flexibility for vacations/trips)

Mark Your Calendars
March 1 – Trailblazers Class –10:30 AM
March 5 – Beginners & Builders Class –10:30 AM
March 5 – Music & Movement –10:30 AM
March 6 – STARS After-School Enrichment – 3:00 PM
March 8 – Trailblazers Class –10:30 AM
March 13 – STARS After-School Enrichment – 3:00 PM
March 15 – Trailblazers Class –10:30 AM
March 17 – Saturday Academy – 3:00-5:00 PM*
March 17 – Casino Night – 5:00-8:00 PM
March 19 – Beginners & Builders Class –10:30 AM
March 19 – Music & Movement –10:30 AM
March 20 – STARS After-School Enrichment – 3:00 PM
March 22 – Trailblazers Class –10:30 AM
March 27 – STARS After-School Enrichment – 3:00 PM
March 29 – Trailblazers Class –10:30 AM
April 26 – Night Visions

*Please note a time change in programming.

Spotlight
Casino Night

(Picture of Mathieu leaning over roulette wheel)

Parent to Parent of Georgia

Staff Contacts

Stephanie Pizza
Ed.S, TVI
Director of Children & Youth Services
spizza@cviga.org
404-602-4331

Kay Hawkins
Children & Youth Services Program Coordinator
khawkins@cviga.org
404-602-4332

Calvin Lee
STARS Family Support Coordinator
clee@cviga.org
404-602-4373

Nancy Jennings
LCSW
Children & Youth Services Social Worker
njennings@cviga.org
404-602-4333

Emily Pack
B.S., TVI
Children & Youth Services
epack@cviga.org
404-602-4335

Joy McFather, M.Ed.
BEGIN Teacher of the Visually Impaired
jmcfather@cviga.org

Michel Maddux
BEGIN Program Teacher/Orientation & Mobility Specialist
mmaddux@cviga.org
404-602-4336

Joan Emerson
STARS Staff

Shelby Ball
STARS Staff

Aracely Rosillo
STARS Staff, UEB Certified
Saturday, March 17th
5:00 PM-8:00 PM at Center for the Visually Impaired
Please RSVP using the following survey link by Wednesday, March 14th:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JP3XCKC
Join us for an awesome night of your favorite casino games, prizes and FUN!

CVI News

Come one, come all, to Atlanta’s greatest party with a purpose! We invite you to throw your hat into the ring for a carnival adventure where everyone is a winner.

Night Visions 2018
Benefiting the Center for the Visually Impaired
Thursday, April 26, 2018
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM
The Stave at American Spirit Works
199 Armour Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30324

Support CVI and enjoy a fun, carnival-themed evening featuring cocktails, great food, silent and live auctions, roving entertainment and carnival games with a mission twist.

Sponsorship packages start at $1,000 and include additional benefits – click here for sponsorship information.

To purchase tickets, click here.

For more information regarding the event, please contact Deborah Burcham at 404-602-4279 or dburcham@cviga.org.

Funds raised through the event support CVI’s life changing services and programs for those impacted by vision loss. CVI is the only nonprofit organization in Georgia that provides vision rehabilitation services and support to people of all ages.