

# GOVERNOR MOREHEAD SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



March 2020

Newsletter

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

This month we continued to celebrate Governor Morehead School's 175 years of service by honoring our past and celebrating Black History Month. On February 27th our Food Service Director, Mr. Jonathan White, treated all our students, staff, and special guests to a fantastic meal and ceremony highlighted the historical perspective of the African American students who integrated from Garner Road to our current campus. Mr. Douglas David, an alumnus, was also one of the first African American students to integrate in the 1960s. His firsthand account served as a reminder of the hardships and injustices students of color had to endure. He encouraged GMS to continue our efforts to keep fighting for equality, especially through education no matter the disability, religion, ethnicity, or color of our skin. We then had a special singer, Ms. Shonny, who beautifully performed "Wade in the Water" as we learned about historically important African Americans who also had visual impairments such as Harriet Tubman.

This month our students were trained in the Say Something Anonymous Reporting App (SS-ARS) which is part of a statewide school safety program designed to prevent violence before it happens, offered by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise. As part of the school safety program, middle and high school students were trained to "say something" to an adult when he/she recognizes a threat to selves or others. Students then can report threats by using current strategies school staff have coached them to use, calling the Say Something crisis hotline, using the Say Something mobile tip app, or by going to the Say Something website.

Before the SS-ARS training students heard an inspirational speaker, Kia Owens talk about overcoming challenges and barriers he experienced as he coped with losing his sight. He encouraged the use of braille, assistive technology, and trying new things. He found comfort as a child, coping with vision loss, in the warmth of his blankets. Through hard work and determination, he accepted himself and his visual impairment to achieve amazing things in his life such as starting his non-profit "Kia's Comforts" an initiative to give students warm blankets for comfort, and an encouraging message to accept who they are and overcome life's barriers.

On February 19, twelve students participated in the Braille Challenge, an academic competition for students who are blind or visually impaired hosted by our community partner, the Eye Shine Foundation. Two students scored top score in their age category, earning them a braille smartwatch. If their showings are amongst the top 10 in the nation, they will be eligible to represent GMS and North Carolina at the National Braille Challenge finals in Los Angeles later this summer. Congratulations to these two Academic All-Stars!

Students also represented GMS at the annual Model UN at UNC. Students co-authored papers and spearheaded committees as they roleplayed delegates to the United Nations to simulate UN committees. This is a highly academically demanding event that takes practice and dedication. Congratulations to all our students, teachers, and chaperones and to the Governor Morehead Foundation for their support of this, and all our student activities.

Thank you for taking the time to celebrate all the successes happening at GMS.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Mescall

## RESIDENTIAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

### North Carolina State University

GMS is situated less than one mile from the North Carolina State campus. This makes collaboration very assessible. For the past three (3) years, GMS has enjoyed a partnership with NC State through collaborative work organized by Dr. Joy Morgan Fleming. For the past three years, Dr. Fleming and her aspiring teachers (students) have shared their classroom knowledge with the GMS students. The AEE 326 course, Teaching Diverse Learners in Agricultural Education, has conducted after school workshops focused on agricultural concepts. This partnership has blossomed into a vital learning opportunity for students who are blind and visually impaired. Dr. Morgan Fleming has also helped coordinate two agricultural festivals for our school. Both offering our students a glimpse of the different agricultural industries. We especially appreciate the efforts made to accommodate the unique abilities of our population by offering tactile experiences and opportunities.



### BECOME A GMS VOLUNTEER

GMS welcomed 9 new volunteers during the January 29<sup>th</sup> training. The volunteer training is held twice a year (September and January). We are always looking for volunteers to assist with tutoring, recreation, special projects, field trips and technology. Please be on the lookout for the next volunteer training to be held in the Fall of 2020.



### Valentine's Day Dance



The GMS students enjoyed a very nice dinner and dance at Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf on Wednesday, February 12th. ENCSD rolled out the red carpet for our GMS family. The Seniors had a special decorated table and were honored during the event. The students enjoyed a night of great food, fun and fellowship. GMS looks forward to inviting the ENCSD students to Raleigh soon.



(Pictures: from top: NC State students arranging flowers on table, volunteers at training, staff dancing and singing at dance)



(Pictures: From left- GMS student using a Perkins brailier, student using cane to walk under 'cane tunnel", students holding their blankets, and students dancing together)

## MONTHLY REVIEW: FEBRUARY

- February 4- PTA/PTO Meeting
- February 10-14- GMS Short Term Session
- February 11- Teen Summit
- February 12- SEANC visits GMS
- February 14- GMS Advisory Council
- February 18- Kai's Comforts- In a short assembly, Kai Owens of GA shares his sight loss story including that he's the world's only legally blind sponsored skim boarder and a drummer in several local bands. He also distributes blankets to students.
- February 18- Kidz Korner
- February 19- Braille Challenge hosted by Eye Shine Foundations
- February 25-28- ACT
- February 25-28- NC EXTEND Alternative Assessments at Grade 11
- February 27- GMS Black History Month Luncheon

## UPCOMING EVENTS: MARCH

- February 25- March 14 College Career Readiness Assessment and WIDA Access ESL
- March 13- 15- EAAB Goalball Tournament at Perkins School for the Blind in Boston
- March 18- GMS Celebrates Pi Day (3/14)
- March 19- End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- March 22- Governor Morehead Foundation Fundraiser
- March 26- Career Day- 175 Year Celebration

## PICTURES:



(Pictures: top middle: Group photo from Braille Challenge, left to right: Students at bowling alley, Short term photo collage, Say Something App logo. Bottom row: Kia giving out blankets, students dressed in business attire for Model UN)

# PARENT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (PCO):



## Governor Morehead Foundation

Cordially invites you to a  
**Wine Tasting Dinner**  
Benefitting

The Governor Morehead School for the Blind

Sunday March 22, 2020 ~ 5:00 pm

Dinner, Wine Tasting & Program

\$100 per person

Dino's Capri Restaurant

Sutton Square ~ 6325-17 Falls of Neuse Rd Raleigh, NC 27609

~

Please RSVP by March 16, 2020

For more information logon to GovernorMoreheadFoundation.org

Or contact Foundation President Mary Flanagan

maryf@infoline.net / 919.782.8621

## Governor Morehead Foundation- Fundraiser

You are cordially invited to join us for a three-course Wine Tasting Dinner! Please come and join us for a friendly, fun-filled evening of delicious Italian food and excellent wines, and help us to support the students of Governor Morehead School. Event takes place Sunday, March 22, 2020 at 5:00pm at Dino's Capri Restaurant located on 6325 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609. Menu includes tossed salad as an appetizer, an entrée of beef braciola with prosciutto, mozzarella, parmigiana, pine nuts, artichoke and sun-dried tomato or chicken stuffed with prosciutto, mozzarella, spinach and sun-dried tomato, or eggplant parmigiana. Dessert will be a delicious tiramisu. For both the Appetizer and Entrée courses, you will have a choice of red or white wine. The Dessert course will be served with a dessert wine. Please RSVP by Monday, March 16, 2020 by going to their website at <https://governormoreheadfoundation.org/>.

## Stepping Out into The Community

Join our Vision Walk Team to join the cause to help the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

GMS is organizing a team to raise funds for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. This international organization raises funds for research and treatment into inherited retinal diseases. Foundation Fighting Blindness has a global footprint but has a major office right here in Raleigh! Now is our chance to be part of this worthy cause, a cause that has the potential to impact the life of someone you know and care about.

You can participate by joining our GMS Chargers team by raising funds as an individual (that will also credit the total donations collected by our team), and by committing to join us during the Vision Walk. The Vision Walk is a fun-run/walk where many other teams and individuals, including those who have a direct interest in the research and treatment supported by the Foundation Fighting Blindness, will gather to celebrate our success in raising funds. The Triangle Vision Walk is scheduled for April 4th at Church Street Park in Morrisville. Here's our page! <https://give.fightingblindness.org/team/282512>

15TH ANNUAL  
**TRIANGLE**  
**VISIONWALK**

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS  
**VISIONWALK**

Join your VisionWalk community!  
Together, we step closer to fighting blindness.

April 4, 2020 • Church Street Park • Morrisville, NC  
9:00 a.m. Registration • 10:00 a.m. Walk Begins

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Visionary Champion: Genentech  
Presenting Sponsor: [Logo]  
Leader Sponsor: [Logo]

Give.FightingBlindness.org/TriangleVisionWalk

For more information, contact Tiffany Hoffman at (919) 781-8014 or THoffman@FightingBlindness.org

**Bryce Martin Foundation**

Proceeds will support kids with visual impairments and blindness

**OPEN TO ALL**  
\$10 Entry Fee

**ACTIVITIES**  
(at no additional charge)  
Face Painting  
Fairy Hair  
Silent Auction  
Sensory Stations  
Refreshments  
Group Performances  
Braille Learning Tools  
& More!!!

**THE 2020 Kids Helping Kids Festival**  
Sunday, April 26 @ 11:30 am

**\*NEW LOCATION\***  
Hilton Garden Inn Raleigh/Crabtree Valley  
3912 Arrow Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612

Register now at  
[brycemartinfoundation.org](http://brycemartinfoundation.org)

## Family Fun

On April 26, the Bryce Martin Foundation is hosting the 2020 Kids Helping Kids Festival at the Hilton Garden Inn located on 3912 Arrow Dr, Raleigh, NC 27612. The event will include Face painting, Balloon Twister, Fairy Hair, Sensory Stations, Kids Performances, Braille Learning Tools, Silent Auction, Carnival Games, and Refreshments.

The price is a \$10 entrance fee for attendees. FREE for blind or visually impaired children and their families. Their goal for the festival is to educate and inspire others about the world of visual impairment and blindness. All proceeds support the foundation's mission! The Foundation is committed to supporting blind and visually impaired children and their families in providing education, tools and technology, and enriching experiences.