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# COASTAL EMPIRE

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ANNUAL GEORGIA DAY PARADE

# Wintry elements don't rain on students' parade





**STORY BY BY JENEL FEW, PHOTOS BY STEVE BISSON** • Savannah Morning News

HUNDREDS OF LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN braved the cold, wet weather to march in the annual Georgia Day Parade dressed like little Yamacraw Indians and English settlers. For weeks, local students prepared for the annual parade, which celebrates Georgia's Founding in 1733. They learned about interpreter Mary Musgrove and the peaceful land negotiations that took place in Savannah between General James Oglethorpe and Yamacraw Indian Chief Tomochichi. They prepared period costumes and designed banners featuring the 2010 Georgia Day Historical Figure Honoree Jackie Robinson. This year's crowd was much smaller than usual, however, because of rain and cold weather. Some schools chose to avoid the weather and march through their campus corridors instead. The parade is part of the Georgia Historical Society's month-long Georgia Days state history celebration. A procession of musicians, local dignitaries and students marched around Savannah's historic squares carrying their banners. They gathered on the steps of City Hall, where prizes were awarded for the best banners and dignitaries discussed the great state of Georgia and how it all started in Savannah.

**Photos (from top to bottom):** Paul Yoo, 10, plays a tune with his classmates at Calvary Day School during the the Georgia Day Parade. • Children in costumes march down Bull Street during the annual Georgia Day Parade. • Baseball players and Abe Lincoln from Windsor Forest Elementary School sing the praises of Jackie Robinson. • Dressed as Georgia's founder, Scott Hodges carries in his hand an umbrella rather than his sword during the march down Bull Street. • Brandon Selders, 11, holds one of the banners for Calvary Day School.



#### ON THE WEB

Go to [savannahnow.com/news](http://savannahnow.com/news) to watch video and view dozens of photos from the Georgia Day Parade.