



# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**Wednesday, October 11** – PSAT Test (Grade 11)

**Thursday, October 12** – Family Council Kick-Off Meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm, Onyx 2 (in the first hallway to the right, inside the Secondary entrance)

**Tuesday, October 17** – School Picture Retakes (original picture packet required)

**Tuesday-Friday, October 17-20** – Scholastic Book Fair, Small Gym (see [GTA website Event Calendar](#) for times)

**Tuesday, October 17** – Senior Parent Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lecture Hall (important – please plan to attend!)

**Tuesday & Thursday, October 17 & 19** – Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:00-7:00 pm

**Friday, October 20** – Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:00-3:00 pm

**Friday, October 27** – Travel Club Trunk or Treat Fundraiser, 5:00-7:00 pm, GTA South Parking Lot

## It's conference time

Our first parent-teacher conferences of the school year are right around the corner! All parents are encouraged to meet with their children's teacher(s) to discuss their progress or any concerns you may have. Reserve your spot at School

Bookings online for [Elementary](#) or [Secondary](#). You may also scan the appropriate QR code:

Elementary



Secondary



Parents without internet access may give us a call (995-0665 for Elementary or 932-6038 for Secondary) and we will schedule conferences for you. Conferences are planned as follows:

Conference Dates	K-12 Conference Times
Tuesday October 17	4:00-7:00 pm
Thursday, October 19	4:00-7:00 pm
Friday, October 20	1:00-3:00 pm

## Elementary pizza sales are back

That's Pizza slices will be available for elementary lunch twice per month on the following days: October 18, November 1 & 15, December 6 & 20, January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20, April 10 & 24, and May 8 & 22. The cost is \$2.00 per slice of cheese or pepperoni. Order forms will be handed out a week in advance and are due back, with payment, no later than the Monday of pizza week.



## Guest teachers needed

There is a shortage of guest teachers in Michigan, and the Grand Traverse area (including Grand Traverse Academy) is no exception. If you are interested in being on our list to cover teacher absences, please contact Maria Dean at [deanm@mygta.us](mailto:deanm@mygta.us). Applicants should have successfully completed at least 60 college credit hours to be considered. Choose your own schedule, have an opportunity to spend time with our wonderful students and make \$150 per day!

## GEMS students celebrate "Socktober"

Did you know that over 600,000 people in the US

experience homelessness every night? A small act of kindness, such as donating a pair of socks, can make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors who are homeless. Once again, Mrs. Mroczkowski's and Mrs. Drost's GEMS classes are celebrating "Socktober" by collecting **new, warm socks**



**and toiletry items** to donate to area homeless shelters. The biggest need is for adult-sized socks, but there is a need for children's sizes as well. Toiletry items are welcome as well and could include toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap or shampoo. We hope you'll help them reach their goal of collecting 1,000 pairs of socks and toiletry items by the end of the month. **Send your donation to school with your child through Friday, October 27.** And thank you for contributing to this worthy cause.

### Senior parent meeting planned

Parents of the Class of 2024 have been invited to a senior parent meeting on **Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 pm in the Lecture Hall** (across from the Secondary Office). This is a very

important event, even if you have had previous GTA graduates, as there will be some changes from past years. Please plan to attend, as the meeting will not be recorded. You may wish to arrange your parent-teacher conferences around this date and time. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Family Council kick-off meeting planned

Parents and caregivers with students at GTA are invited to come to the GTA Family Council's first meeting of the year, planned for **Thursday, October 12 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Onyx 2 classroom** (in the first hallway to the right, inside the Secondary entrance). This is a great way to get to know other GTA parents and see the events and volunteer opportunities that the Family Council has in store this school year! [RSVP by following this link](#) or contact Kristin Boogaard at (616) 328-4646 or [kristinboogaard@gmail.com](mailto:kristinboogaard@gmail.com).

### Scholastic Book Fair planned, shopping made easier than ever!

No more crumpled bills and loose change at this year's Scholastic Book Fair, scheduled for **the week of October 16!** Say "hello" to eWallet, a convenient and secure digital payment account. Setting up an eWallet for your child enables them to shop effortlessly during this fun event. It's simple: just visit our [Scholastic website](#), create an account and add funds.



The account can even be shared with family and friends who may want to contribute to your child's reading experience. Any leftover funds may be saved for the next book fair if you like. Parent volunteers are needed at the book fair; see below for details and sign-up information.

### A note from Family Council

**Book fair volunteers needed.** GTA will host a [Scholastic Book Fair](#) the week of October 16 and we need your help in making it a success. Fair hours for students/parents are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday during the school day (plus after hours on Thursday) and Friday until 1:00 pm. Help is also needed on Monday morning for setup. If you can help, please sign up on our [Fall Book Fair volunteer sheet](#). If you have not helped at a book fair in the past, it is a fun and rewarding experience! We look forward to seeing you.



**Staff meals for evening conferences.** Parent-teacher conferences are coming soon! The GTA Family Council will once again be providing dinner for teachers and staff members who stay during these long days. Please click on the link below to bring an item, help set up the room or make a donation toward the purchase of pizza:

[Sign Up Here for Either October 17 or 19](#)

Your contribution of any kind or amount is greatly appreciated.

### GTA hosts elementary cross country meet

The weather was perfect last Thursday for GTA's



elementary cross country meet, featuring teams from Immaculate Conception, TC Christian, The Children's House, Kingsley, Buckley, New Covenant Christian, and the Woodland School. Congratulations to our Mustang boys, who took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and the girls, who came in 3<sup>rd</sup> out of eight!



## Mud Run fun!

Grand Traverse Academy hosted cross country teams from Bellaire, Frankfort, Interlochen Arts Academy, Lake City, Mancelona, Manton, Marion, McBain and New Covenant Christian Academy on Saturday for a muddy good time!



## Counseling corner

Northwestern Michigan College has announced two upcoming events on the NMC campus for college-bound high school students or those who are just beginning to explore post-secondary opportunities:

- **Monday, October 9, 6:00 pm**  
[Applying to College 101](#), a meeting with admissions representatives who will guide participants through the application process.
- **Wednesday, October 11, 6:00 pm**  
[College Night](#), where representatives from over 40 colleges, universities and military branches will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

We encourage students to take advantage of these free and informative events.

## Student absences and late arrivals

If your child will be absent from school or arriving late, please contact the appropriate office at your earliest convenience:

- Secondary, [hsoffice@mygta.us](mailto:hsoffice@mygta.us) or (231) 932-6038
- Elementary, [elementaryoffice@mygta.us](mailto:elementaryoffice@mygta.us) or (231) 995-0665.

## Trunk-or-Treat event planned

The GTA Travel Club is hosting a fall harvest Trunk-or-Treat costume party fundraiser for students of all ages on **Friday, October 27 from 5:00-7:00 pm in the south parking lot**. There are three ways to participate:

- Decorate your car in a family-friendly theme for distributing candy
- Donate candy for participating cars
- Bring your students in a family-friendly costume to walk from vehicle to vehicle and collect candy

Arm bands for student admission will go on sale in the Elementary and Secondary Offices on **Monday, October 9** for \$5 each. If you choose to decorate your car, [register to participate here](#). Each car registration includes two free arm bands! Candy donations may be placed in the "Goodie Gobbler" box outside both the Elementary and Secondary Offices.

## Two students win essay contest

Congratulations to GTA 8<sup>th</sup> graders **Lillia Miller** and **Zaya**



**Bright**, who recently won \$300 scholarships toward our upcoming Washington, DC trip in an essay contest

sponsored by the Lake Ann Lions Club. Kudos to all students who submitted essays; they made the selection of winners very difficult!

## Mustang Roundup

The following athletic events are scheduled for this weekend:



**Friday, October 6** – Varsity Soccer vs. Glen Lake, 6:45 pm, TC West High School

**Saturday, October 7** – Varsity Volleyball Tournament, 8:30 am-3:00 pm, Mancelona

**Saturday, October 7** – Varsity Cross Country Invitational, 9:00-11:30 am, Portage

**Saturday, October 7** – Junior High Soccer vs. TBays U14, 10:15 am, Keystone Soccer Complex

For a full schedule of athletic events by season and sport, visit the [Practice & Event Schedules webpage](#) and click on the sport and grade level of your choice. Calendars may be printed or viewed by week, month or as a list by clicking on the appropriate option at the upper right corner. Events are listed by opponent, and details (including a location map) are available by clicking on the calendar item. Our Mustangs love to have fans to support and cheer them on!

## Veterans Day celebration t-shirts for sale

The GTA National Junior Honor Society is sponsoring our annual Veterans Day celebration on **Friday, November 10**. New this year is a commemorative t-shirt, with profits going to a local veterans' non-profit organization. The shirts come in short- or long-sleeved styles and youth or adult sizes. Purchases are made

directly through [Custom Ink](#) and orders for GTA



students and their families will be delivered to the school for distribution. Those who

do not have a GTA student may have their order delivered directly to their home. We hope that everyone will wear their shirt for the event to show our American pride and gratitude to our veterans. These shirts may be worn as spirit wear for the rest of the school year. Watch for details about our Veterans Day celebration coming soon!

## Get to know the GTA website

Did you know that Grand Traverse Academy has a [Spirit Wear Store](#) conveniently located on our website? Top brands of shirts, jackets, shorts and pants, as well as accessories like hats, bags, blankets, decals and more are available for all ages!

## Choir spirit wear shirts available now

GTA choir members are invited to show their Mustang spirit with a shirt designed just for them! T-shirts and hooded sweatshirts are available and may be worn on spirit days throughout the school year. An order form is attached to this newsletter and is due back, with payment, by **Wednesday, October 11**.



Cash or checks are accepted and checks should be payable to Grand Traverse Academy.

## Have a question?

No question is too silly or trivial to ask! Here's where to go for fast answers to general questions about all things GTA, like uniforms, school pictures, carpool procedures, school hours and more:

**Elementary Office: (231) 995-0665**  
**Secondary Office: (231) 932-6038**

For answers to more specific questions, please refer to the [list on our website](#). We want to be sure that you know exactly where to go for accurate answers.



## Varsity Academic Awards presented

Congratulations to the following students, who received Varsity Academic Awards last Friday for earning a cumulative 3.4 GPA or better in both the first and second semesters of the 2022-23 school year.

**First year honorees:** Cole Anderson, Yasmina Bourdkani, Jack Craig, Michael Dickinson, Nathaniel Dix, Samantha Foley, Dylan Haines, Maxwell Hobbs, Emma Howard, Kaden Klooster, Marcus Long, Samuel McMann, Maddison McPhilimy, Perry Middaugh, Pearl Mimnaugh, Emily Needham, Daisy Niccum, Jordin Schultz-Kloo, Emerson Slepicka, Elijah Thompson, Zeeva VanWingerden, Isaac Whipple. **Second year honorees:** Dana Bacon, Sadie Brown-Bannon, Ava Butera, Hattie Croff, Charles Dennis, Arabella Dent, Katie Dreychan, Elisha Gamalski, Eden Hadfield, Neilah Koumliene, Analese Lau, Jonah Novak, Megan Pavwoski, Phoebe Riess, Marcus Rose, Savannah Smith. **Third year honorees:** Tristan Bembeneck, Alleah Dix.

## College representatives to visit GTA

Juniors and seniors are invited to visit with



representatives and gather information about various colleges and universities right here at GTA! A sign-up sheet is available outside the Secondary Office.

Meetings will take place in MPR 1 & 2 on the dates and times below.

College	Date	Time
Grand Valley State University	October 9	8:00 am
Calvin University	October 12	9:50 am
University of Michigan	October 13	8:00 am
Aquinas College	October 13	8:30 am
Lake Superior State University	October 19	9:00 am
Northern Michigan University	October 26	9:00 am

## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

**Save your Oleson's receipts, please!** Do you shop at



Oleson's Food Markets? Did you know that your cash register receipts are worth money for our school? With the Oleson's

Community Share Program, you earn "Community Share Points" each time you shop (with the exception of alcohol purchases). One point equals one cent, so if you spend \$100 on groceries, you've earned \$1 for GTA! These points add up quickly. It's easy to participate –

simply save your receipts and deposit them in the box just to the right of the Elementary Office door.

**Box Tops for Education.** Box Tops for Education offers



SEE THIS...  
**SCAN**  
YOUR RECEIPT

a way to support our school with the purchase of many grocery items: The [Box Tops mobile app](#) allows you to

scan store receipts, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our earnings online. No more clipping, taping onto collection sheets and dropping them off at school!

## Fire Department plans open house

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Station #9 (110 High Lake Road) is holding an open house on **Saturday, October 7 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm**. There will be fun and food for adults and kids alike, including first responder truck tours, an obstacle course and a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog. Take your turn at dunking a fire chief in the dunk tank for \$5 – proceeds benefit the Safe Neighborhood Smoke Alarm Program.

## Get free books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

Did you know that reading to young children for just 15



minutes a day, from birth on, will give them the skills they need to become proficient readers? Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has a goal of inspiring children to love to read. To make the 15-minute target even

easier, it provides free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five – regardless of family income. The program is available in our area; [register now](#) to get started!

## Ongoing events

**Elementary Pizza Days** – Every other Wednesday, as follows: October 18, November 1 & 15, December 6 & 20, January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20, April 10 & 24 and May 8 & 22 (order and pay by the preceding Monday using forms sent home on off weeks), \$2.00 per slice of pepperoni or cheese

**Secondary Pizza Days** – Every Thursday (order and pay by Tuesdays using forms provided in Advisory classrooms), \$1.50 per slice of cheese or pepperoni

# Choir Spirit Wear Order Form



t-shirts and sweatshirts are navy with silver and white writing  
(as pictured above)

## Pricing

**T-shirts: \$12**

**Hooded Sweatshirts: \$26**

Both can be worn on any spirit wear days throughout the school year.

Please fill your quantity in on the appropriate size line.

If you are ordering both, make sure to fill out **both** size lines..

Orders and payment may be turned in to Mrs. Diephouse

Orders are due Wednesday October 11, 2023

**Cash or Check. Please make checks payable to GTA**

**FULL NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

## Youth T-Shirt Sizes

Write in quantity on size> M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_

## Youth Hooded Sweatshirt Sizes

Write in quantity on size> M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_

## Adult T-Shirt Sizes

Write in quantity> S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_\_\_

## Adult Hooded Sweatshirt Sizes

Write in quantity> S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_