

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Friday, January 19 – NO SCHOOL, Semester End

Monday, January 22 – Spelling Bee, 6:00 pm, Silver 1

Tuesday, January 23 – Enrollment Information Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lecture Hall

Thursday, January 25 – International Exchange Night, 5:30-7:00 pm, Onyx 2 (see related story)

Students of the Month selected

Congratulations to the following, who were named Students of the Month for December:

Elementary – Optimism

Noah Duggin, kindergarten, is the son of Ronda Vietor and Don Duggin. According to Mr. Terrill, “Noah comes in every morning with a smile on his face, ready to greet his teachers and friends. He starts his morning work and finishes quickly. Noah is constantly practicing the new skills he learns in class and he is not afraid to try challenging work.”



Scarlett Wilcoxon, grade 3, is the daughter of Sarah and Paul Wilcoxon. Mrs. Wilson describes Scarlett in this way: “You can feel the energy in the room change when Scarlett enters the room! She bounces in with a smile and points out all of the great things in front of her. Not only does she celebrate all of the positives in the morning, but she cheers about all of the successes throughout the day. It is impossible not to smile or feel good when you are near Scarlett Wilcoxon because of her positive energy!”



Lucas Candela, grade 5, is the son of Melissa and



Giovanni Candela. Mr. Alejandro says that “Lucas is continuously motivating and encouraging others by looking at any problem situation and turning it into a positive learning moment. I appreciate how he is smiling and happy first thing in the morning. Lucas is hardly ever upset or discouraged when

something does not happen the way he would like it. I periodically hear him cheering on others and giving them positive feedback. Lucas is a wonderful model of what it takes to stay positive and optimistic.”

Secondary – Professional Work Habits

Piper Tierney, grade 8, is the daughter of Jessica and



Jeremy Tierney. Mrs. Stearman states that “Piper is an extremely diligent student. She is very communicative in a proactive and professional manner. Piper is also a very hard worker--she puts her best effort into all her school work! If she doesn't succeed the first time, she will show determination and try

again until she demonstrates mastery of a skill. Way to go Piper!”

Daisy Niccum, grade 10, is the daughter of Angela and



David Niccum. Mrs. Callahan says, “I am honored to have Daisy in my first hour chemistry class. When she arrives, she is prepared and organized for the day! Regardless of what is going on around her, Daisy is a dedicated and focused student. Her work consistently shows quality and is turned in on time. Daisy is a

role model to her peers: she is quick to work with anyone in group activities without complaint. Daisy, thank you for your work ethic and commitment to your studies! You are a blessing to everyone around you!”

Enrollment Information Meetings planned

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2024-25 school year has begun **and continues through Thursday, March 7**. Several enrollment information meetings are planned and listed below. Each includes a brief presentation in the Lecture Hall, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities. If you have friends or family members with school-aged children, we encourage you to invite them to reserve their spot at one of these meetings by calling (231) 995-0665.

Enrollment Information Meetings		
Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	January 23	6:00-7:00 pm
Monday	January 29	6:00-7:00 pm
Tuesday	February 6	9:30-10:30 am
Monday	February 12	6:00-7:00 pm
Thursday	February 22	9:30-10:30 am
Wednesday	February 28	6:00-7:00 pm
Thursday	February 29	9:30-10:30 am
Monday	March 4	10:00-11:00 am
Tuesday	March 5	9:30-10:30 am

Family Council movie night rescheduled

The GTA Family Council has been busy planning some fun, family-friendly events you won't want to miss! Be sure to mark your calendars for the following:

Friday, February 16 – Join your GTA friends at a FREE



showing of "The Magician's Elephant" in the Big Gym at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6:00). Kids may wear their

pajamas and bring a blanket and pillow (**no outside chairs, please; folding chairs will be provided**).

Concessions will be available for sale.

Health Department screenings scheduled

The Grand Traverse County Health Department will administer free, routine vision and hearing tests here at school according to the following schedule:

Grades	Hearing Tests	Vision Tests
Preschool	Week of January 22	
K, 2, 4	Week of January 22	
1, 3, 5, 7, 9		Week of January 22

If you would like to have your child screened and they are not in one of the grades listed, or if you prefer not to have your child's hearing or vision tested, please call the Elementary office at 995-0665.

International Exchange Night planned

Are you interested in learning about a new country and



culture without having to leave the comfort of home? Or developing a relationship with a young

person from another country that will last a lifetime? Then hosting a foreign exchange student for the 2024-25 school year might be just the opportunity you've been waiting for! Join Mrs. VanHouzen on **Thursday, January 25, from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Onyx 2 classroom** to learn more. She'll have current host parents as well as a GTA exchange student on hand to describe the experience from their own perspectives. Contact Mrs. VanHouzen at vanhouzenm@mygta.us with questions or to reserve your spot, or scan the QR code above to get started! Families do not need to have secondary-aged students to qualify as a host home, as younger students can enjoy the benefits too.

Mustang Roundup

The following basketball games are scheduled for this weekend:



Friday, January 19

JV & JV2 Girls, 5:30 pm at Traverse City West High School

Varsity Girls, 5:30 pm vs. Traverse City Homeschool at Home

JV Boys, 7:00 pm /Varsity Boys 8:00 pm Scrimmage vs. Cadillac Homeschool at Revival Center of Cadillac

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. Our Mustangs love to have fans to support and cheer them on!

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 or (231) 932-6038

Elementary: elementaryoffice@mygta.us
or (231) 995-0665

Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

Box Tops for Education. Box Tops for Education offers 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.

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 and it's easy to participate – simply save your receipts and deposit them in the box just to the right of the Elementary Office door.

Ongoing events

Secondary Robotics Team Meetings – Fridays from 12:15-3:00 pm, Copper 1

Girls Who Code Club Meetings – Tuesdays from 3:45-4:30 pm, Copper 1

Secondary Muffin Sales – Mondays from 7:40-8:00 am in the MPR; \$2.00 each starting January 22

Secondary Bagel Sales – Wednesdays from 7:30-8:00 am in the MPR; \$2.00 each

Secondary Doughnut Sales – Fridays from 7:40-8:00 am in MPR 1 & 2; \$2.00 each

Secondary Bake Sales – January 10 & 24, February 7, March 6, April 17, May 15

Elementary Pizza Days – Every other Wednesday, as follows: January 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

Fun fact

In a quest to replace rubber with an inexpensive substitute during World War II, James Wright accidentally invented what common toy?



Answer: Silly Putty

Source: www.today.com