

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Thursday, February 8 – TADL Bookmobile Visit

Friday, February 9 – Deadline for Ordering Elementary Yearbooks

Friday, February 16 – Family Movie Night, 6:30 pm
(doors open at 6:00 pm), Big Gym

Enrollment Information Meetings planned

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2024-25 school year **continues through Thursday, March 7**. Several enrollment information meetings are planned and are 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	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

Current students automatically enrolled for 2024-25 school year

Please note that once a student has been accepted for enrollment at Grand Traverse Academy, they do not need to go through the application process to attend in future school years. However, an [enrollment application](#) must be completed for siblings of current students who will be entering kindergarten in the fall or whose parents wish to transfer them to GTA from another school. Enrollment questions may be directed to Mrs. Truesdell at truesdella@mygta.us.

Misconduct reporting tools available

STOPit app. If you or your child have a safety concern at school, the best and most effective way to address it is to contact a school official. If you prefer to share information anonymously, Grand Traverse Academy has joined forces with STOPit Solutions. This online reporting tool is designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse and other at-risk behaviors and actions before they escalate. Students and parents have access to the STOPit mobile app to make anonymous reports that alert school administrators to issues of concern. Privacy of student data is always a priority. We encourage all parents to read the attached flyer, view the [STOPit training video](#) and download the app with your family today from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). Questions may be directed to [Mrs. VanHouzen](#), [Mrs. Patrzik](#) or [Mrs. Floering](#).

Confidential 24/7 support. Help is available for survivors of sexual misconduct. Reach out to the National Sexual Assault Hotline at (800) 656-HOPE (4673).

Elementary art fundraiser announced

Mrs. Wildner, elementary art teacher, is excited to



announce a K-6 art fundraiser through Square 1 Art. This is an amazing opportunity for parents to celebrate their children's artwork

while raising funds for our school! How does it work? Students will soon be making a special piece in their art classes. Once completed, families will receive a catalog of various personalized items for purchase, including keychains, travel mugs, canvas prints, stationery, coasters, keychains, bags, mouse pads, beach towels and more! Orders will be due on May 3, will be shipped shortly thereafter and delivered



directly to your home. Original art will be returned for students to treasure. Every year, our students create so many wonderful works of art – the goal is to raise enough money to purchase display boards to better showcase them in our school. Thank you for your participation!

Family Council movie night update

The GTA Family Council has announced a change in



plans for their upcoming Family Movie Night. The featured film will be the recently released “Wish,” an animated

musical that pays tribute to Disney’s 100th anniversary. Join your GTA friends on **Friday, February 16 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**). Admission is free and concessions will be available for purchase. Parent volunteers are needed to help with concessions, clean-up, etc. [If you can help, sign up here](#). Please use the form to volunteer only; an RSVP is not necessary to attend the movie. Thank you!

High school class makes donations

Each year, seniors taking Mrs. McCann’s Global



Perspectives class complete a project where they research a global issue and choose a nongovernmental organization to support financially. This year, they raised \$400 and split the donation between [Ocean Conservancy](#), an environmental advocacy group, and [Helen Keller Intl](#),

which focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty. We applaud Mrs. McCann and her students for working to make a positive difference in the world!

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

Elementary yearbooks still available

It’s not too late to order a 2024 yearbook for your elementary student! An order form is attached and may be used for any quantity. The books are just \$12 each. Orders, with payment, should be turned in to the Elementary Office **no later than Friday, February 9**.



Student art contest accepting entries

The ESS company invites students in grades K-12 to use



their artistic skills to create original artwork for the ESS 2024 art contest. The topic is, “What do you imagine your day would be like if you attended school underwater?” The only limit is imagination! The top five finalists in each grade group will be featured on ESS social media for public voting during the week of March 18, with voting ending on March 24. Winners will be announced on March 27 and will receive a \$500 American Express gift card as well as \$500 for their school. **The deadline for submission is Sunday, February 25 at 8:00 pm Eastern Time.** Visit <http://artcontest.ess.com/> for guidelines and to submit artwork. Elementary students will discuss the contest in art class but this is an at-home project, independent from GTA class time.

Mustang Roundup

The following basketball games are scheduled for this weekend:



Friday, February 2

Junior High Girls (Silver), Home vs. The Children’s House, 4:00 pm

JV Boys, Home vs. Homeschool, 5:30 pm

JV Girls, Home vs. Interlochen, 7:00 pm

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!

Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

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.

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.

Fun fact



How many noses does a slug have?

Answer: Four, along with 3,000 teeth!

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 – *February 7, March 6, April 17, May 15*

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

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to announce that our school has enrolled with STOPit, by STOPit Solutions

STOPit is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features.

Specifically, the program educates students to:

- Recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously
- Report it anonymously through STOPit App/Web or 24/7 Incident Response Center
- Submit photo or video evidence (App/Web Only)
- Alert designated administrators to issues and risks early, before they escalate

No personal information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a requester voluntarily includes it within the content of a request or message.

Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the [Student Privacy Pledge](#), spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association. You may review STOPit's [Privacy Policy](#) for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

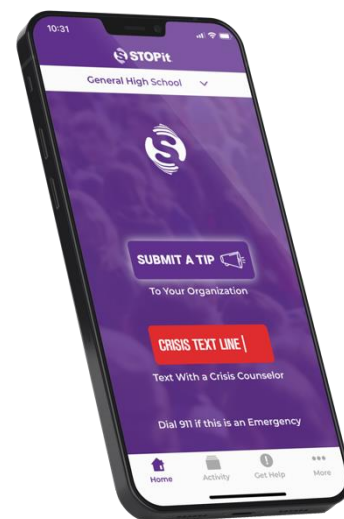
Students have the power to help put an end to harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or are otherwise in need of assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder, school communities both online and off.

We encourage you to download the STOPit app and search for your students' school using the directory. You can privately ask for help for your student, family, others you care about, or even acquaintances who appear to need help. For a video on how to use STOPit, go to: [Student Training Video](#).

Together, we can make sure everyone in our community gets what they need to thrive. Thank you!

Mindy VanHouzen

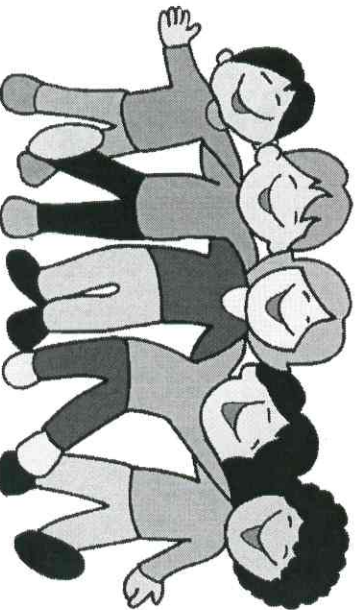
Dean of Students



FUN & FRIENDS MEMORIES

Order Your Copy Today!

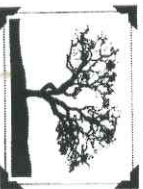
Price - \$12.00



Orders Due By: Friday, February 9, 2024

Everyone enjoys hanging out with friends and having a good time...
Fortunately, reliving these moments is as easy as flipping through the pages of your
very own Yearbook. Don't let these memories of special friends be lost forever.

Order a yearbook today!



Timeless Image Inc.
4788 Church Rd. Traverse City MI 49685
timeless-image.com
Customer Service: Mon-Fri 9:00am - 4:00 (231) 929.1010

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER

Please return payment to school by:

Friday, February 9, 2024

YEARBOOKS		
Quantity	Price	Total
_____	@ \$12.00	_____

Please make checks payable to:

Timeless Image

TOTAL AMOUNT
ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Student First Name

Student Last Name

Teacher

School