

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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

Monday, February 19 – NO SCHOOL, Midwinter Break

Tuesday-Friday, February 20-23 – Secondary Frost Fest

Friday, February 23 – High School Frost Fest Dance,
7:00-10:00 pm, Big Gym (see included info for details)

Thursday, February 22 – Family Council Meeting, 6:30-
7:30 pm, Onyx 1

Friday, March 1 – “Reality Check” Financial Literacy
Event for HS Students, 8:30 am-12:05 pm

need to reapply in subsequent years. Current GTA students will be automatically enrolled for the following school year. What’s more, siblings of current students who apply for the first time will receive preference should an enrollment lottery drawing be necessary. However, an [enrollment application](#) must be completed for siblings of current students who will either be entering kindergarten in the fall or transferring from another school. Enrollment questions may be directed to Mrs. Truesdell at truesdella@mygta.us.

Students of the Month selected

Congratulations to our January Students of the Month! Following is how their nominating teachers described them:

Elementary – Work Ethic



Vera Bowers, kindergarten, is the daughter of Tasha and Michael Bowers.

“Vera always completes work with quality in mind. She often doesn’t like to leave work unfinished and will go back to her completed work to add a few extra

touches! She is quick to start her work and reminds her tablemates to stay on task or keep their voices down.”

- Mr. Terrill



Lindsie Winter, grade 3, is the daughter of Stacie and Michael Winter.

“Lindsie has a phenomenal work ethic. She quickly completes all assignments and then uses her time wisely to continue to learn. She completes assignments independently and with confidence. When she makes an

error on an assignment, she fixes it, even if it does not change her grade. Not only does she always use her work time productively, but she also encourages her peers to be successful too. She cheers students on when they are taking timed tests in math and celebrates when they accomplish a learning goal!”

- Mrs. Wilson

Enrollment Information Meetings continue

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2024-25 school year **continues through Thursday, March 7**. Several enrollment information meetings remain and are listed below. Each includes a brief presentation in the Lecture Hall, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities. *Year after year, our surveys show that the #1 reason parents apply for enrollment at Grand Traverse Academy is the recommendation of a friend or relative.* If you have acquaintances 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
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

Attention new-to-GTA families!

As a reminder, once your children have been accepted for enrollment at Grand Traverse Academy, there is no



Penelope Garriss, grade 5, is the daughter of Ashley and Heath Garriss.

"From her first day in 5th grade GEMS, Penelope has demonstrated a solid work ethic. She is focused, has high expectations for her learning and completes work with the utmost quality.

She goes above and beyond on projects and writing assignments, and she works to fix and improve anything she gets wrong. I am lucky to have her in my class!"

- Mrs. Mroczkowski

Secondary – Optimism

Soren Blackmer, grade 7, is the son of Grace and Cory Blackmer.



"Soren is an outstanding model of optimism in my advisory class. While there may be little duck feet paddling away under the surface, Soren is always cheerful and upbeat with me and his classmates.

He is unfazed by challenges and, in fact, seems to welcome them. I believe Soren's tendency to look forward rather than behind him is a quality we can all emulate. Thanks for all of your smiles, Soren!"

- Ms. Myers

Perry Middaugh, grade 10, is the son of Amy and Timothy Middaugh.



"Perry has a great attitude in everything he does! Whether he is lifting heavy things or solving a math problem, he is optimistic about it all. Perry sees challenging things as something exciting to overcome. He is never afraid to ask questions or try

something new and never shies away from hard things. His optimism shows in everything he does. Perry is a great mathematician, student, weight lifter and all-around person because of his positive attitude!"

- Mrs. Wenger



If your child will be late for school or absent for the day, please notify the office at your earliest convenience. Parents will be called to verify any unexcused absences.

Elementary 995-0665 / Secondary 932-6038

Volunteers needed for high school financial literacy event

We are excited to announce a special event planned for **Friday, March 1, from 8:30 am-12:05 pm** that will provide GTA high school students with a glimpse of



the financial realities of adult life. This "reality check" will randomly assign each student a hypothetical career, marital status, number of children (if any), a salary and a checkbook. From there, they will enter a simulated community where they will pay for various financial obligations, such as rent or mortgage payments, medical bills, car purchases, utility and insurance payments, etc. Volunteer community members will help them set priorities and learn how far their dollars will go. **That's where we need your help!** Are you in the banking, insurance, auto sales, financial planning, hairstyling, real estate or other service-related business, or know someone who is? We can also use parent volunteers to help man individual booths (information and related materials provided) and assist with set-up and clean-up. This event is both enlightening for our students and rewarding for community participants. If you'd like to be involved in Reality Check or want more information, please contact Mindy VanHouzen at vanhouzenm@mygta.us or 932-6960.

"Simply the Best" is back!

As you may know, in 2022, Grand Traverse Academy



was voted Best School in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* Simply the Best of Northern Michigan contest and **Jocelyn Bohrer** and **Maria Drost** tied as runners-up for Best Teacher! In 2023, we were tops in the Best School and Best Workplace categories, and runner-up for Best Teachers (as a group), with **Jennie Wildner** placing next. We thank all of our community members who made these honors possible, which provided great exposure and promotion for our school to the many thousands of

northern Michigan residents who nominated and voted for their favorites.

What's next? Nominations for Simply the Best 2024 opened on February 12. If you are so inclined to make a nomination or add another nomination to the lists, we invite you to visit <https://www.record-eagle.com/simplythebest> and show your support of Grand Traverse Academy. Best School and Best Teacher can be found under the Children, Family & Education category, and Best Workplace is listed under Business & Professional. **Note that you may nominate the same individual or organization once per day and nominations may be submitted until midnight on May 10.** Voting for the top three nominees in each subcategory will run from May 13-July 31 and winners will be announced in September.

Family Council needs you!

Family Council meeting. Although we are well into the second half of the school year, there are still many opportunities to get involved as a parent. GTA's Family Council will hold a meeting on **Thursday, February 22, from 6:30-7:30 in Onyx 1** to discuss what's coming up for the remainder of the school year. If you can attend, please let Kristin Boogaard know by signing up here: [FC MEETING 2.22.24](#). They will be discussing the following:



- Read-a-thon (March 4-15)
- Conference Night Dinners (March 5 and 7)
- Recycled Uniform Sales
- Field Day
- End of Year Staff Luncheon & Gifts

If you have questions, feel free to contact Kristin at kristinboogaard@gmail.com.

Read-a thon returns! Mark your calendars for March 4-15, when our very successful Read-a-thon fundraiser returns. Last year, it resulted in students reading for 146,127 minutes (that's over 2,400 hours!) and raising \$13,550 to help build classroom libraries. Watch for more information in coming newsletters!

Annual Education Report (AER) available

Grand Traverse Academy's most recent AER information may be found on the [school's website](#).

Secondary Frost Fest



Frost Fest 2024, for students in grades 7-12, takes place next week, **February 20-23**. Here's what's in store:

Dress-Up Days*

Monday – (No School)

Tuesday – University Day

College or university tops and/or bottoms (must follow the GTA dress code and include a visible logo)

Wednesday – Mismatched Day

Patterns or clothing pieces that don't match

Thursday – Decade Day

Freshmen: 1990's, Sophomores: 1980's, Juniors: 1970's, Seniors: 1960's, Junior High: 1950's

Friday – Follow Your Dreams Day

Clothing that clearly represents a career or field of work

*As an alternative, spirit wear tops may be worn with uniform pants/skirt/shorts any day, with a spirit band bracelet (available in the Secondary Office for \$5). Jeans worn during Frost Fest week also require a spirit band. Jeans with rips or holes, as well as leggings-style or yoga pants are not part of the GTA dress code.

Competition

Advisories are collecting canned goods, which should be given to their advisor.

High School Dance

High school students are invited to a dance on Friday, February 23 from 7:00-10:00 pm in the Big Gym. Tickets are \$10 in advance and must be shown at the door. The theme is "The City That Never Sleeps."

Family Council movie night tonight!

The recently released "Wish," an animated musical that pays tribute to Disney's 100th anniversary, will be featured at tonight's Family Movie Night. Join your GTA friends **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. If you are able to come a bit

early or stay a little late, **several parent volunteers are still needed** to assist 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, and we'll see you at the movie!

Mustang Roundup

The following basketball games are scheduled for this weekend:



Friday, February 16

JV Girls at Interlochen, 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 17

Elementary Boys at St. Mary of Lake Leelanau (see link below for details)

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!

GTA students receive honors from Career Tech

Congratulations to the following Northwest Ed Career Tech students, who were recognized during the second quarter of the school year:

Ethan Lawrence (Web & App Development), grade 11, is the son of Sarah and Matthew Lawrence.



"Ethan is always cooperative and goes above and beyond the general specifications on his class projects. He works ahead and tries to apply what he has learned to new coding projects. He's always very upbeat and is more than willing to help others students who may be struggling a bit with their code."

- Patrick Lamb

Brayden Cole (Robotics & Automation), grade 12, is the son of Shawna and Darin Cole.



"Brayden is a great student and we really enjoy having him in class. He is always looking to apply his skills."

- Patrick Lamb

Jonah Novak (Film/New Media), grade 12, is the son of Christine and Brad Novak.



"You can truly sense Jonah's love of film and storytelling. That love translates into a desire to learn more and an impressive work ethic. Jonah also leads by example, which draws people towards him and elevates his work and the work of his peers."

peers."

-Patrick Lamb

Preschool enrolling now for 2024-25

Grand Traverse Academy Preschool is a licensed,



tuition-based program created especially for 3-5-year-olds.

Through fun, hands-on activities, children develop the confidence, creativity and critical thinking

skills that prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond. Full- and half-day sessions are available and parents may choose two, three or five mornings or days per week. For more information or to apply for enrollment, visit the [Preschool webpage](#). Please feel free to share this information with other parents of preschool-aged children!

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.

Registration open for “College for Kids”

Northwestern Michigan College’s popular “College for Kids” is enrolling students age 3 through grade 12 for summer classes. Categories include Culinary Arts, Fine Arts, Recreation, Music, STEM, Writing, Children’s Choir, Drama and GRASP. For more information or to register, visit



<https://nmc.augusoft.net/info/landing/youth-programs>.

Register now for Little League

The Traverse City Little League is registering players now for the spring season (May 1-June 30). Divisions include Tee Ball (ages 4-6), Coach Pitch (ages 7-8), Minor-Player Pitch (ages 9-10) and Major League (ages 11-12). See the attached flyer for details and registration information or [visit them online](#).

Fun fact



Paris’s Eiffel Tower, at 984 feet tall, has how many floors?

Answer: Three

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 – *March 6, April 17, May 15*

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



Traverse City Little League 2024 Season

Register Online:
www.traversecitylittleleague.com

Information



Tee Ball
4-6 years

Coach Pitch
7-8 years

**Minor
Player Pitch**
9-10 years

Major League
11-12 years



SCAN ME

Evaluations

**Traverse City West
Senior High**

Saturday 3/2
Majors 10am – 12pm
Minors 12pm – 2pm

Saturday 3/9
Minors 10am – 11:30am
Major 11:30 – 1pm

**ALL Minor and Major Players are
required to attend one of the
evaluation sessions**

**Coaches and Volunteers
Please Sign Up at:
Traversecitylittleleague.com**

**Registration Ends:
Feb 29th**



T-Ball / Coach Pitch
\$100 Per Child

**Majors / Minors /
Juniors**
\$150 Per Child

Please Inquire if financial
assistance is needed.

SEASON DATES:

May 1st – June 30th

**Games and
Practices
Mon – Thurs**

We want to thank our volunteers
who play their part, so that
Little Leaguers everywhere can
live their own epic series.
TCLL is 100% Volunteer organized

one
TEAM
one
LITTLE LEAGUE

Questions? – go online
www.traversecitylittleleague.com
Or Email us:
Littleleaguetraversecity@gmail.com