

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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

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

Tuesday/Thursday, March 5/7 – *Sixth Grade Parent Meetings, 5:30 pm, Lecture Hall*

Thursday, March 7 – *Open Enrollment Period Ends*

Volunteers needed for high school financial literacy event

We are excited to announce the return of 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, real estate or other service-related business, or know someone who is? Parent volunteers are also needed to help run individual booths (information and related materials provided) and assist with setup and cleanup. 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, or [sign up here](#).

It’s conference time

Our second semester parent-teacher conferences 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



Conferences are planned as follows:

Conference Dates	K-12 Conference Times
Tuesday, March 5	4:00-7:00 pm
Thursday, March 7	4:00-7:00 pm
Friday, March 8	1:00-3:00 pm

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.

K-8 Read-A-thon returns!

March is National Reading Month and we’re celebrating



with a repeat performance of our two-week Read-A-thon. This event is designed to encourage

reading while raising funds to benefit classroom libraries and provide reading resources. Last year, our K-8 students read for 146,127 minutes (that’s over 2,400 hours!) and raised \$13,550! This year, we’re striving for 150,000 minutes read and \$15,000 raised. Read-A-thon begins on **Monday, March 4** and is sure to

be a fun and exciting event. We understand that your time is valuable so Read-A-Thon lasts just two weeks. That's why we are encouraging everyone to activate their student's Read-A-Thon account as soon as possible. The process is quick and easy and should take less than five minutes. Just watch a [short instructional video](#) and then use [this link](#) to activate your student's Reader Account. This account will serve as a hub for recording and monitoring your child's progress as a reader and for you to share their Read-A-Thon message with friends and family. Thank you so much for your participation and support. Together, we can make this another amazing experience for our young readers!

Sixth grade parent meeting planned

On **Tuesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 7**, we are hosting junior high information meetings for parents at 5:30 pm. We will cover the secondary attendance policy, athletic opportunities, uniforms, junior high schedules and the course selection process. Both meetings will take place in the Lecture Hall and will also be livestreamed online. The link to attend virtually will be shared closer to the event dates. Please let us know if you'll be attending in person or virtually by submitting the form that was emailed to parents of 6th graders earlier this week. If you prefer, you may register by calling the Secondary Office at 932-6038. The Lecture Hall has limited seating, so we appreciate your RSVP by Monday, March 4. Please keep this event in mind when scheduling your spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.

"Simply the Best" is back!

Nominations for the *Traverse City Record-Eagle's*



Simply the Best 2024 opened on February 12. Grand Traverse Academy is once again in the running for Best School and Best Workplace, and has several Best Teacher nominees. If you are so inclined, we invite you to visit <https://www.record-eagle.com/simplythebest> and show your support of Grand Traverse Academy by making a nomination. 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!

Although we are over halfway through the school year, there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved as a parent, including the following: **Read-a-Thon** (March 4-15); **Conference Night Dinners** (March 5 and 7); **"Recycled" Uniform Sales;** **Field Day** (late May); and **End of Year Staff Luncheon & Gifts.** If you missed Thursday's meeting and have questions or want to volunteer, feel free to contact Kristin at kristinboogaard@gmail.com.



Last chance for Lost & Found

We've enjoyed some spring weather but winter is sure to make another appearance and students will need the multitude of hats, mittens and gloves that have accumulated in the Lost & Found! Students and parents are reminded to check the Lost & Found, located in the vestibule at the junction of the elementary and secondary wings, for missing water bottles, books, lunch boxes, jackets, boots, mittens, etc. We will be packing up anything remaining (with the exception of embroidered uniform pieces and library books) in the next couple of weeks for donation to charity. Thank you!

2024-25 Secondary class registration open

It's that time of year when junior high and high school students look ahead to their next year of school and begin registering for classes! The [2024-25 Course Catalog](#) has been published on the GTA website and the scheduling portal on PowerSchool is now open. Mrs. Wahl, school counselor, will be meeting with students over the next couple of weeks to provide information and assistance with selections. Parents are encouraged to take this opportunity to discuss elective options with their child prior to selections being made. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to contact Mrs. Wahl at wahlg@mygta.us.

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
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 first-year families!

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

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!

Mustang Roundup

The following basketball games are scheduled for this weekend:



Friday, February 23

JH Girls End of Season Party,
12:10 pm, Big Gym

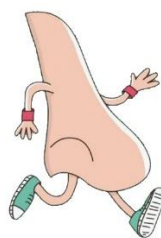
Saturday, February 24

Elementary Boys at Home (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 them on!

Facial tissue donations appreciated!

It's that time of year - noses are running and we're running out of tissues in our classrooms and offices! If you can donate a box to help replenish our supply, it would be greatly appreciated. You may either send it to the office with your child or drop it off in person for distribution to needy classrooms. Thank you!



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.



Players sought for ultimate team



High school students interested in playing on a local ultimate Frisbee® team are invited to an open meeting on Sunday, March 3 at 3:00 pm at the Traverse Area District Library on Woodmere Avenue. For questions or more information, contact Chris Courtright at courtright1675@gmail.com.

Absences or late arrivals

If your child will be late for school or absent for the day, please notify the office by 8:30 am. Parents will be called to verify any unexcused absences after that time.

Elementary 995-0665 / Secondary 932-6038

Fun fact

The actual name of the familiar hashtag is an octothorpe!



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: 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