

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, March 5, 7 & 8 – *Parent-Teacher Conferences (see details below)*

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

Thursday, March 7 – *Open Enrollment Period Ends*

Thursday, March 14 – *TADL Bookmobile Visit, 9:15 am-12:00 pm*

Thursday, March 14 – *Secondary Bands Fundraiser Concert, 6:30-8:30 pm, Big Gym*

Friday, March 15 – *Secondary Choir Concert, 6:00-6:30 pm, Big Gym*

It's conference time

Our second semester parent-teacher conferences are next week! All parents are encouraged to meet with their children's teacher(s) to discuss their progress or any concerns you may have. If you haven't done so already, be sure to

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.

Used uniforms on sale during conferences

The GTA Family Council will hold a gently used uniform sale during parent-teacher conferences. Find them in the Gym Lobby from 4:00-6:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday and 1:00-3:00 on Friday.

A note from Family Council

Conferences are coming up, which means long days for GTA leaders, teachers and participating staff. GTA's Family Council will once again be graciously providing them with dinner on March 5 and 7. Please help if you can by signing up to donate an item, money for pizza or to help with setting up. By providing these dinners, we show how much we appreciate them and all that they do for our students. Simply go to [Conference Night Dinners March 2024](#) to volunteer.

Read-A-Thon begins Monday, March 4!

If you haven't done so already, we encourage everyone to activate their student's Read-A-Thon account before Monday. 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. Together, we can reach our goals!



If you own, manage or know of a business that would like to support our school, consider a Read-A-Thon sponsorship. Sponsor businesses will gain exposure to thousands of individuals who are all passionate about supporting literacy and our community. What's more, every business sponsor will have their logo printed on the back of over 400 Field Day t-shirts! Reserve sponsorship spots today by [clicking here](#).

Secondary student news

Food drive.



GTA's National Junior Honor Society concluded their annual canned food collection for the Father Fred Foundation's Frost Bite Food Drive last week with a donation of exactly 300 items! A big thanks to the

families of all the secondary students who participated.

Academic World Quest.



recently competed in the 11th Academic World Quest competition. Ten rounds of ten questions tested competitors' knowledge of global affairs. Teams were made up of **Emerson Slepicka, June Hoedel, Alexandra Baylon and Jordin Schlutz-Kloo** for the Mustangs, Weapons of Mass Deduction included **Jonah Novak, Andrew Afton, and Sam Larson**, and team Creme de las Chuckles comprised **Bradyen Cole, Jacob George, Ian Weber, and Zack Worm**. All teams represented GTA very well!



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 (the virtual link 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 please respond by Monday, March 4. Please keep this event in mind when scheduling your spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.



GTA powerlifters **Perry Middaugh, Stuart Nottke, Cole Anderson and Max Hobbs** will compete at the state meet tomorrow (**Saturday, March 2**) in Croswell. Best wishes to all!

"Simply the Best" is back!

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



the Best 2024 have opened and 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> to show your support of Grand Traverse Academy by making a nomination. Best School and Teacher can be found under the Children, Family & Education category, and Best Workplace is listed under Business & Professional. **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 for parents to get involved, including the following: **Read-a-Thon** (March 4-15); **Conference Night Dinners** (March 5 and 7); **"Recycled" Uniform Sales** (March 5, 7 & 8); **Field Day** (late May); and **Year-end Staff Luncheon & Gifts**. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Kristin at kristinboogaard@gmail.com.

Ahoy, sailors!

GTA Social Studies Teacher **Mrs. Stearman** is pleased to



announce that she will be coaching sailing with Traverse Area Community Sailing

(TACS) this spring. She will be helping with the middle school/high school team out of the TACS location on Boardman Lake. Students from ALL schools in the area practice together (more boats=more fun racing!). However, she would love to create our own GTA team! The team has a spring and fall season, so students can participate in one or the other, or both. Sailing experience is encouraged for the spring season, which begins the first week of April, with practices on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Practices are after school until 6:00 pm, starting with some fitness activities to warm up, followed by rigging and then hitting the water. There is always a brief and debrief before and after sailing. GTA dismissal is a little later than other schools, so our group should aim to be at TACS by 4:00 pm, ready to go (others will be a bit earlier). Questions? Contact Mrs. Stearman at stearmans@mygta.us or find more information at www.tacsailing.org/high-school-sailing.

Watch for student art on display

The Crooked Tree Arts Center has announced their annual Youth Art Exhibit, running from March 5 to April 5 and featuring the art of young people in the greater Grand Traverse Area. Elementary Art Teacher **Mrs. Wildner** will be delivering several of her students' works for the display. The Center is located at 322 Sixth Street in Traverse City. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 am-5:00 pm and Saturday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

Last chance for 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, is meeting with students 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, contact Mrs. Wahl at wahlg@mygta.us.

Wanted: Empty barn or garage

The parents of our Cherry Festival prince and princess are in need of space to build the GTA float. Ideally, it would have access to electricity. If you can help, please email clwolfe1020@gmail.com, supapan@gmail.com or matt@theconcreteservice.com.

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
Monday	March 4	10:00-11:00 am
Tuesday	March 5	9:30-10:30 am

Attention first-year families!

We hope you're enjoying your experience at GTA. As a reminder, there is no need for current students to reapply for GTA admission in subsequent years, as they 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. Simply complete an [enrollment application](#) and we'll be in touch with you. Enrollment questions may be directed to Mrs. Truesdell at truesdella@mygta.us.

Elementary art fundraiser has begun

Mrs. Wildner is thrilled for her talented students to



have the opportunity to participate in the Square 1 Art fundraiser! GTA K-6 students have begun working on their special works of art. The goal is to celebrate our students and, hopefully, earn enough to purchase bulletin boards to better showcase student artwork. The keepsakes that are being made will be wonderful “time stamps” to treasure as your child grows. Their masterpieces will be available for family and friends to purchase, printed on a variety of unique gifts and mementos. Please watch this newsletter for information on ordering as it becomes available. We thank you in advance for your support of our amazing art program.

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!

French Toast announces scholarships

French Toast, one of our two school uniform vendors, has announced their [2024 French Toast Shine Award Scholarship](#)! GTA seniors are invited to apply for the chance to earn a \$1,000 scholarship to offset the cost of college or post-secondary/technical school. A total of 10 students will be chosen from French Toast-affiliated schools in the US. Don't delay, as the application deadline is April 1, 2024.

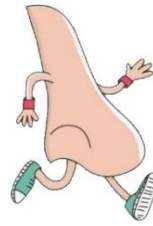
Absences or late arrivals

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

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!



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