

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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

Band and choir concerts next week

Mark your calendars for next **Thursday and Friday,**



March 14 and 15, when our Secondary Bands and Choirs will showcase their talents in individual concerts.

On **Thursday, join us for Band Jam 2024**, a fundraiser concert featuring “Latin Jams.” Tickets are not required but we ask for a \$5 per person donation at the door if you are able; additional contributions are welcome. Proceeds will go toward a scholarship fund to support our students’ musical endeavors and the purchase of additional band equipment. The Cadet, Concert and Jazz Bands perform at 6:30 and the Varsity and Symphony Winds Bands take the stage at 7:30. Feel free to bring family and friends!

Friday’s Choir Concert at 6:00 pm brings international selections, taking the audience on a musical “Journey” around the world, from Korea to Ireland to Africa and beyond! This one is free and open to the public. Both concerts will take place in the Big Gym.

Read-A-Thon continues

A huge shoutout to GTA families for your amazing support of our readers in this year’s Read-A-Thon fundraiser! With 90 percent of elementary and junior high students



registered, we are well on our way to reaching our reading and monetary goals. If you haven’t done so already, we encourage everyone to activate their student’s Read-A-Thon account – it’s not too late! 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 school community. And 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](#).

Coffee’s on!

Mr. Thomas’ 6th grade class is selling coffee from the



Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities, field trips and resources for the remainder of

the school year. The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in regular and decaffeinated, whole bean and ground. **Orders are due on Friday, May 3** and will be delivered the following week. Prices are \$13 for regular and \$14 for decaf. They thank you for your support!

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.

A letter from Coach Daron Klooster

What a great year for our 6th grade boys basketball



team!
We were 8-0 on the season, scoring a total of 426 points, for an

incredible average of 53 points per game! Three things really stood out this season:

- Since our game against the White team (GTA 7th graders) in the first season, we didn't give up a single fastbreak layup the rest of the year. Their commitment to playing defense was amazing.
- Their communication on the court was incredible. They would talk on defense, they were attentive and aware when we would run different plays on offense, and they would make sure we were all matched up when subs came into the game.
- (My favorite!): Their unselfishness was incredible! Their willingness to look for each other, pass the ball, help on defense, cheer for each other, support each other and cheer for the other teams when they scored should make us all proud. We not only have a group of good basketball players; we have a group of good young men.

Thank you, team parents, for letting your son participate this year. There's a lot to like about this group of boys. I'm excited to watch them as they grow together and am looking forward to next year!

GTA offers girls' elementary running club

Girls Take Action, led by Mrs. Kipke, is based on the GTA



character traits and teaches girls in grades 3-6 to be self-confident. Practices will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays right after school until 4:40 pm beginning April 9. Please see the attached flyer/registration form

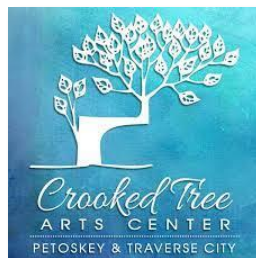
for more information! **Completed forms should be turned in to Mrs. Kipke by April 5.**

High school "test out" information

Under Michigan legislation, high school students may request the opportunity to test out of any high school class they select. Students requesting to test out of a high school graduation requirement must complete [this online application](#) on or before April 19, 2024. Students must submit a separate form for each class test request. Note that students are not eligible to test out of a course in which they are currently enrolled or have previously failed. Courses requiring students to complete extended projects and/or research papers in addition to passing the test-out final exam must be completed by May 24, 2024.

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. The following students have pieces on display: **Self-Portraits**

Landon Chichester-K, Elizabeth

Clark-1, Beatrix Butler-1, Aubrey Coddington-1; **Walk Your Line Design** Aubrey Challender-2; **You Be You Fish** Juniper Jozwiak-2, Darby Manthei-2, Olivia Leffel-2; **Clay Fish** Clark Koontz-2, Darby Manthei-2, Olivia Leffel-2; **Underground Lines** Paige Garriss-3, Lucas Raimundo-4; **Kandinsky Mixed Media** Ella Hoffman-4, Abby Kucharski-4, Maevyn Gibson-4; **Mixed Media Animal Face Collage** Zeke Alpers-4, Olesia Narolska-4, Aubrin Lauzon-4, Willa Hubble-3; **Popcorn Drawings** Stella Buckler-6, Gabe Waligorski-6, Anna Alpers-6; **Egyptian Cartouche** Riley Chichester-5, Lincoln Klooster-6, Evelyn Dombrowski-5; **Studio Artists (Drawing or Painting)** Aurora Jacobs-5 watercolor, Evan Weaver-5 acrylic, Bryson Conner-5 colored pencil, Minette Wells - 6 colored pencil, Penelope Garriss-5 watercolor, Ariana Herman-6 watercolor/colored pencil, Adelyn Roof-5 hojalata tin art, Penelope Garriss-5 – two hojalata tin art pieces.

We were thrilled to learn that **Minette Wells**, grade 6, and **Penelope Garriss**, grade 5, won awards for their artwork! 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. The award presentation is on Sunday, March 10 at 1:15 pm for elementary and 1:45 pm for middle and high school.

Square 1 Art fundraiser open to all GTA students and families

Mrs. Wildner’s elementary art students are participating in a Square 1 Art fundraiser this spring, in which

their artwork can be printed on a variety of unique gifts and mementos. We are pleased to announce that all GTA students and families are able to participate in the fundraiser as well, with their own creations or photos. To take part, simply follow [these easy instructions](#). For purchases to qualify for the fundraiser, art or photo uploads must take place by **Thursday, March 21**.

Enrollment information meetings added

Although Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2024-25 school year officially ended yesterday, we are still receiving applications and have some spaces available. We have added the following enrollment information meeting dates to our calendar to accommodate families who are interested in learning more about our school:

Enrollment Information Meetings		
Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	April 9	10:00 am
Wednesday	April 24	6:00 pm
Tuesday	May 7	10:00 am
Thursday	May 30	6:00 pm

Each meeting 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.

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.

Lions Club awards travel scholarships

A big thanks to the Lake Ann Lions Club for their donation of \$500 to our Washington, DC travelers to help with expenses. An essay contest determined the scholarship winners. Congratulations to the top five: **Zoey Turowski**-\$150, **Zoey Birdsong**-\$125, **June York**-\$100, **Lily Smith**-\$75 and **Autumn Patrzik**-\$50. We hope the group has a memorable and educational trip!

Pit Spitters announce Reading Club



Once again, the Traverse City Pit Spitters baseball team is offering a Reading Club to area students in observance of National Reading Month. Monty, the Pit Spitters mascot, paid a visit to GTA 1st graders to kick off the program. Watch for details coming soon!

“Simply the Best” is back!

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



the Best 2024 are open 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.

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.

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!

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.

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

Remember to spring forward!

Spring is in the air and the days are getting longer as the



Earth and North America tilt toward the sun. Daylight Saving Time officially begins on **Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 am local time**. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night!

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 – April 17, May 15

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



Mr. Thomas' Upper Elementary class is selling coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities, field trips, and resources this year! The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in Regular and Decaffeinated, Whole Bean and Ground. Orders are due on Friday, May 3rd and will be delivered the following week. Prices are \$13 for Regular and \$14 for Decaf. Thank you for your support!

	Whole Bean	Ground
Bakery Blend	_____	_____
Bakery Blend Decaf	_____	_____
GTA Blend	_____	_____
GTA Blend Decaf	_____	_____
French Roast	_____	_____
French Roast Decaf	_____	_____
Hazelnut	_____	_____
Hazelnut Decaf	_____	_____
Caramel & Pralines	_____	_____
Caramel & Pralines Decaf	_____	_____
Chocolate Cherry Festival	_____	_____
Chocolate Cherry Festival Decaf	_____	_____

Total \$ _____ Student's Name _____

Phone # _____ Student's Teacher _____



Girls Take Action is an after school program for 3rd-6th grade girls offered at Grand Traverse Academy. This program will focus on all the things that girls can be empowered to take action on in their lives. The framework of the program will be the character traits taught at GTA-respect, responsibility, optimism, work ethic, getting along and kindness. There will also be a community service component.

The program will begin at Grand Traverse Academy on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40-4:40 pm. We will meet in the classroom (Kipke-Red 1) and will run in various locations around the school. The final run will be held on Friday, May 24th at 1:00 at GTA.

If you have any questions, please contact Coach Courtney Kipke at kipkec@mygta.us.

DUE: April 5, 2024

Keep Running!

Ms. Kipke

Registration for Girls Take Action

Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____ Grade _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP: _____ Phone _____ T-SHIRT SIZE: Youth M L or Adult S M L XL 2XL

I, _____ give permission for _____
(parent/guardian) (daughter)

to participate in the Girls Take Action program. I understand this is a non-competitive running program designed for girls in 3rd-6th grades. Along with physical workouts, coaches provide focused and age-appropriate discussions on certain areas based on the GTA character traits in order to prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. The registration fee for Girls Take action is \$30 and includes a t-shirt and the final run.

☐ Enclosed is my \$30. Checks should be payable to Grand Traverse Academy. Please return the completed form, with payment, to the school office.