


Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

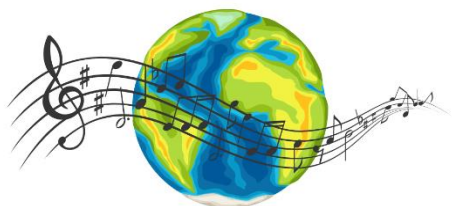
Friday, March 15 – *Secondary Choir Concert, 6:00-6:30 pm, Big Gym*

Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29 – *NO SCHOOL Spring Break* 

Monday, April 1 – *School Resumes*

Choir concert tonight

Tonight's choir Concert at 6:00 pm in the Big Gym will



feature international selections, taking the audience on a musical journey

around the world, from Korea to Ireland, Africa and beyond! Feel free to bring friends and family to this free musical event.

Thanks for dinner!

A big thanks to the GTA Family Council for the evening meals they provided to staff who stayed at school late on parent-teacher conference nights. According to Mrs. Floering, everyone was so appreciative, and were relieved to have dinner plans "off their plates" on Tuesday and Thursday nights! Special thanks to Kristin Boogaard for doing the organizing.

Read-A-Thon concludes this weekend

A huge shoutout to GTA families for your amazing




support of our readers in this year's Read-A-Thon fundraiser! With 93 percent of elementary and junior high students registered, this has been our most successful

Read-A-Thon to date! Students still have this weekend to log in minutes and donations, so stay tuned for complete results in next week's newsletter.

Elementary Dress-Up Days next week

Elementary students are invited to celebrate Reading



GTA 2024 Reading Month Dress Up Days!

Monday March 18: Cat in The Hat Day

- Wear your favorite hat!

Tuesday March 19: The Sleep Book

- Wear your PJs to get cozy with a book!

Wednesday March 20: Wacky Wednesday!

- Wear your wackiest pair of socks!

Thursday March 21: Oh The Places You'll Go

- Wear a shirt from your favorite college

Friday March 22: Favorite Character Day

- Dress up as your favorite book character!

Month with special Dr. Seuss-themed dress-up days next week. Please remember that clothing must be school-appropriate (no holes, tears, leggings worn as pants or inappropriate sayings).

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.

No doughnuts on Friday

The GTA National Honor Society will **not** be selling doughnuts to secondary students next Friday, March 22. They appreciate their customers and will be back in business after Spring Break!



Family Council needs you...

Although we are already over halfway through the school year, there are still plenty of opportunities for parents to get involved in the GTA Family Council, including Elementary Field Day (late May) and the Year-end Staff Luncheon & Gifts. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Kristin at kristinboogaard@gmail.com.

Square 1 Art fundraiser deadline this week

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 this **Thursday, March 21**.

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 enrollment preference should there be a waitlist in a particular grade. 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.

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 by 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!



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.

GTA offers girls' elementary running club

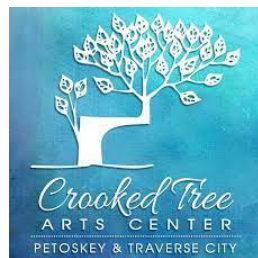
Girls Take Action, led by Mrs. Kipke, is based on the GTA character traits and teaches girls in grades 3-6 to be self-confident. Practices will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays right after school until 4:40 pm beginning April 9. Please see the attached flyer/registration form

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



Student art on display

The Crooked Tree Arts Center has announced their annual Youth Art Exhibit, running through April 5 and featuring the art of young people in the greater Grand Traverse Area. Many of our elementary students have art on display, with two award winners! 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.

Secondary first semester honor roll announced

Congratulations to the following students for earning a place on the GTA honor roll for the first semester of 2023-24. Qualifications are all A's and B's for junior high and a minimum GPA of 3.4 for high school.

Junior High: Leah Andrews, Mario Aristeo, Kallan Bennecoff, Zaya Bright, Beckett Dennis, Eliza Diephouse, Kalin Eskeli, Payton Green, Eliora Hadfield, Lylah Hadfield, Haidyn Hartley, Olivia Holcomb, Jessica Jones, Alissa Kohlmann, Jonathan Komisarz, Leo Korte, Samuel Link, Molly Mesko, Lilia Miller, Zachary Newman, Olivia Peltier, Saul Ross, Raphael Schaub, Maria Schwerin, Piper Shumar, Piper Tierney, Kylie Vermilyea, Noah Waligorski, Cozette Wilcoxon, Elizabeth Winslow, Lailiana Adams, Memphis Agruda, Soren Blackmer,

Aden Casteel, Austen Geyer, Aleah Graf, Eden Gruennert, Alayna Gubbins, Blake Hagie, Benjamin Hall, Isaac Hobbs, Owen Hoffman, Wyatt House, Elli Jacobson, Keith Kirkman, Ember Lauzon, Raelynn Leverich, Keith Link, Kaiden Maharjan, Josiah Maidens, Sophie McCrum, Pavlo Narolskyi, Hunter Neer, Clara Nink, Kole Paddock, Nora Paddock, Ruth Paddock, Autumn Patrzik, Vivianna Patterson, Emma Peckham, Braelon Pflug, Dylan Priest, Eli Rainey, Lily Smith, Matthew Smith, Madelyn Tessin, Zoey Turowski, Norah Vermilyea, Eva Vivit, Livia Walton, Branton Wells, Reagan Wieland, Hope Willoughby, Scarlett York, Reznor Young, Maximus Zionskowski.

High School: Dana Bacon, Michael Bell, Paige Bell, Tristan Bembeneck, Luke Bilderback, Liliya Cherkasov, Arabella Dent, Alleah Dix, Dario Ferrari, Lillian Fitch, Samantha Foley, Samantha Larson, Jonah Novak, Guy Rondeau, Alayna Schneider, Lillie Tschirhart, Nathaniel Vang, Cassidy Worm, Zack Worm, Sadie Brown-Bannon, Jack Craig, Hattie Croff, Charles Dennis, Michael Dickinson, Katie Dreychan, Eden Hadfield, Lillian Hassler, Neilah Koumliene, Analese Lau, Megan Pavwoski, Kaitlynn Payne, Phoebe Riess, Savannah Smith, Cassidy Weber, Cole Anderson, Alexandra Baylon, Coby Bilderback, Yasmina Bourdkani, Nathaniel Dix, Aidan Elmasri, Eva Henning, Maxwell Hobbs, Luke Hoffman, Emma Howard, Arren Hudson, Kaden Klooster, Marcus Long, Samuel McMann, Maddison McPhelimy, Perry Middaugh, Pearl Mimnaugh, Eden Mroczkowski, Emily Needham, Daisy Niccum, Jordin Schultz-Kloo, Eleanor Slater, Emerson Slepicka, Elijah Thompson, Zeeva VanWingerden, Carson Vermilyea, Isaac Whipple, Caden Ardan, Destan Ardan, Cali Bilderback, Judd Cornutt, Tyler Deneau, Claire Dennis, Darby Gruennert, Jacob Haase, Rhys Hadfield, Henry Hartl, Theodore Hassler, Jillian Hoedel, Tess Hoedel, Araya John, Nathan Kinney, Ellie McClure, Michael Nottke, Stuart Nottke, Addison Patrzik, Evan Smith, Madison Smith, Bailey Stephen, Gracie Sterzik, Lucy VanWingerden, Isabella Walden, Lily Wilcoxon, Eli Willoughby, Palyn Wooters, Chase Worm, Travis Worm, Stella York.

Student absences or late arrivals

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

Elementary 995-0665 or elementaryoffice@mygta.us
Secondary 932-6038 or hsoffice@mygta.us

Enrollment information meetings added

We are still receiving enrollment applications and have some spaces available for the 2024-25 school year. 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.

Best wishes to our spellers!

GTA 7th grader **Lily Smith** and 8th grader **Sam Link** will



be competing in the Regional Spelling Bee at the City Opera House tomorrow (March 16) to vie for a trip to Washington, DC for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Sixth grader **Hector Aristeo** will participate as alternate should either of them be unable to compete. Wish them congratulations and happy spelling!

Preschool enrolling now for 2024-25

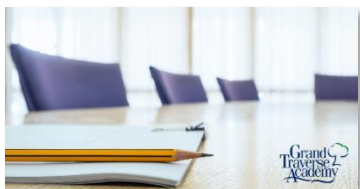
Grand Traverse Academy Preschool is a licensed, tuition-based program created especially for 3-5-year-olds. Through fun, hands-on activities, children develop the confidence, creativity and critical thinking skills that prepare them for success in kindergarten and



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!

Board seeking member prospects

GTA's board of directors is seeking individuals who are passionate about our school and have an interest in the possibility of serving on the board in the future. Board



membership is a great way to share your time and talents in supporting our mission of ensuring that all students are safe, loved, and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics. For information on the role and responsibilities of a GTA board member, please contact Amy Ettawageshik at ettawageshika@mygta.us

Ahoy, sailors!

GTA Social Studies Teacher **Mrs. Stearman** will be coaching sailing with Traverse Area Community Sailing (TACS) this spring, helping with the middle school/high school team on



Boardman Lake. 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. Students should aim to be at TACS on Boardman Lake by 4:00 pm, ready to go (other teams will arrive a bit earlier, as their schools dismiss earlier). Questions? Contact Mrs. Stearman at stearmans@mygta.us or find more information at www.tacsailing.org/high-school-sailing.

"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.

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 (no sales on March 22)

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.