




Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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

Monday, April 1 – School Resumes

Saturday, April 13 – Mother-Son Bowling at Incredible Mo's, 10:00 am-12:00 pm (see details below)

Read-A-Thon concludes

We are thrilled to announce the results of our Read-A-Thon reading fundraiser, in



which 93 percent of our elementary and junior high students participated. Our goals were 150,000 minutes read and \$15,000 raised.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers and families, we finished the two-week period with an amazing **337,467 minutes read and \$32,600 raised!** In addition to supporting literacy, this event will benefit all of our students with reading resources, additions to classroom libraries and activity funds, and more.

Mrs. Hartwig's and **Mr. Thomas's** elementary classes, and **Mrs. Toner's** and **Mrs. Dix's** junior high advisories each won a pizza party for capturing the top spots for donations raised or minutes read. A special shout out to the top 10 students in each category:

Student	Minutes Read
Violet Link	4,617
Kaiya Newman	3,863
Lela McCulley	3,718
Hector Aristeo	3,123
Oliver Peckham	3,068
Ember Lauzon	3,050
Oliver Terrill	3,048
Moses McCulley	3,039
Jack Mesko	2,881
Claire Whipple	2,735

Student	Donations Raised
Ava Boogaard	\$695
Patrick Murphy	\$625
Toryn Batdorff	\$450
Harper Hammond	\$445
Amelia Addis-Ike	\$445
Avalia Davidson-Goebbert	\$440
Andre Sabourin	\$420
Jaiden Walker	\$400
Noah Clark	\$395
Langley Lou Agruda	\$375

We thank all the students who participated, as **each and every minute read and dollar raised made a difference.** And we are so grateful for the friends, family members and community business leaders who came together to support our students' reading efforts with monetary donations and personal words of encouragement. Special thanks to the following local and GTA family-owned businesses for their contributions: **That'sa Pizza, Roy's General Store, Tom's Food Markets, Front Street Insurance Agency, Doug Murdick's Fudge, AMRA Energy, Zen Massage, Oleson's Food Stores and Anchor Pro Wash.** Last but not least, we extend a huge thanks to GTA parent **Kristin Boogaard** of the GTA Family Council for once again organizing and managing the event.

➔ Remember that any prize money earned by students will need to be spent at the [Read-A-Thon prize store](#) by **Thursday, March 28**; once the prize store is closed, it cannot be reopened.

Mother-son event planned

Every other year, GTA plans a special event just for boys



and their moms! On **Saturday, April 13**, you are invited to join us at Incredible Mo's

for bowling, pizza and arcade fun. See the registration form attached for details. Forms, with payment should be turned in to the office by **Friday, April 5.**

Students of the Month chosen

Congratulations to the following students, who were selected as Students of the Month for February:

Elementary – Getting Along

Amelia Amormino, kindergarten, is the daughter of Riley Amormino and Kenny Amormino. According to Mr. Terrill, “Amelia goes out of her way to make everyone feel welcomed in the classroom. She is always the first to jump in whenever anyone has a problem and she can speak with them in a calm voice to help figure out a solution. Her smile and laughter brighten everyone's mood!”



Luke Myers, grade 3, is the son of Maria and Matt Myers. Mrs. Wilson states that “Luke does an outstanding job of ‘Getting Along’ with his peers. He is very competitive; however, he cheers on all of his classmates. He celebrates the success of his peers in math facts, fluency and work completed. He can work with all of his classmates and is able to negotiate, cheer, support and listen to all of them. He also does a fabulous job in making sure others are successful. For example, one student was not finished with their triarama and Luke guided them until it was complete and did so without being asked. He also supported a peer finish their three-paragraph paper. Our classroom is a better place because of Luke Myers!”



Amelia Addis-Ike, grade 4, is the daughter of Holly Addis and Carl Ike. Mrs. Cherup describes Amelia as “...such a kind and caring student. She goes out of her way to make others feel good and is always willing to help any peer or teacher if needed. She listens to others’ perspectives if conflict does arise and works on making the situation right in a mature and fair way. Amelia accepts others for who they are and sees all people as important in their own unique way. Amelia gets along with all of her classmates and is an amazing friend to others.”



Secondary - Caring

Memphis Agruda, grade 7, is the son of Kelsey and Kyle Agruda. According to Ms. Bloomquist, “Memphis is a kind, caring and exemplary student. He always helps classmates in need, encourages everyone to do their best and leads by example with his positive attitude. His kindness and compassion make him a fantastic role model for others to follow.”



Pearl Mimnaugh, grade 10, is the daughter of Holly and Peter Mimnaugh. Ms. Ramsey says that “The first student who immediately comes to mind in regards to caring is Pearl. Every day, through her actions, she demonstrates that she cares about her classmates, her teachers and her school. She is one of the kindest humans you will EVER meet. I have no doubt that she would, without thought, help a fellow student with any task.”



Band Jam enjoyed by all

If you missed last week’s Band Jam concerts, [here is a link](#) to enjoy and share with family and friends. We thank concert attendees, as well as the following sponsors, for supporting our bands. A total of \$4,000 was raised for scholarships and equipment. **We Love Nails, Jean Zerges, That’sa Pizza, Wieland Structural Engineering, Subie Guys Inc., Wild Haven Disc Golf, Rebecca Deneau Art LLC, Salvation Army Church Family, Zoey Birdsong & Family, WealthCare Insurance Group, Courtright Family, Tara Dennis Design, Backflow Man and Maria Dean.** Mark your calendars for Band Jam 2025, featuring ‘80s & ‘90s pop rock!

Congratulations, spellers!

After months of studying a massive list of rarely-used and often foreign words, GTA spellers **Lily Smith** and **Sam Link** competed in the 2024 Grand Traverse Regional Spelling Bee at the City Opera House last Saturday morning. Competitors in the bee were asked to spell words like quittance, profundity and rustication. Lily outperformed half of the best spellers in the region before misspelling a word, while Sam lasted a full 90 minutes and placed 8th out of 29 spellers. We are incredibly proud of both of these hard-working GTA students. Please join us in congratulating them!

GTA artists make the cut in Cherry Festival poster art competition

Judges have narrowed the 120 submissions for the 2024



National Cherry Festival art print contest to 30 and eight of them were created by Grand Traverse Academy students! Congratulations to **Eva Send, Kalin Eskeli, Molly Mesko, Nora**

Paddock, Lily Prentice, Emily Needham, Ava Butera and Penelope Garris, whose artwork is shown on the attached page. Visit the [National Cherry Festival Facebook page](#) to vote for the People's Choice Top Five. Do not vote for more than five or your votes will not be counted. Voting ends on March 25. Best wishes to our talented young artists!

Attention, first-year families

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. Thank you for your support!

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

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.**

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.

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!

“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.

Co-ed baseball offered to young people with disabilities

The Dream Team is a co-ed baseball league for those ages 8-26 with disabilities or special health care needs.



Games are played at the Grand Traverse Civic Center, with opening day on Saturday, May 11. Registration is FREE! To

register or for more information, visit

<https://www.dreamteamnmi.com>. Coaches, volunteers and team sponsors are also needed.

Ongoing events

Secondary Robotics Team Meetings – Fridays from 12:15-3:00 pm, Copper 1

Girl 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: 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





Mother-Son Event

Saturday, April 13, 2024

10:00 am-12:00 pm

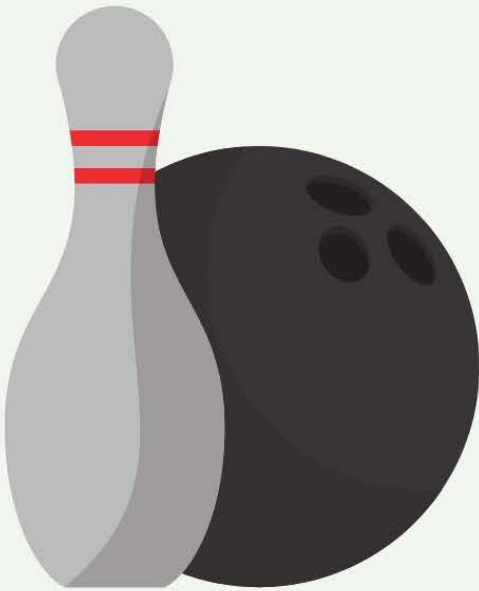
(check-in at 9:45 am)

at Incredible Mo's

Just \$15 per person

includes:

- 1 game of bowling and shoes
- \$5 arcade card
- 2 slices of pizza and soda



Please turn in registration form, with payment, to the office by Friday, April 5, 2024

Name of Mother and Son(s)

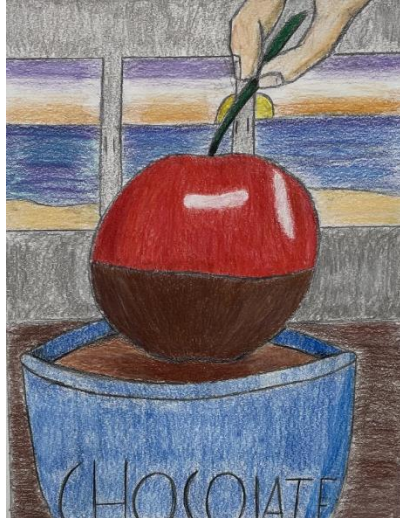
Number of persons attending _____ x \$15 = _____ Total

**Grand Traverse Academy
2024 National Cherry Festival Art Print Submissions**

Eva Send



Kalin Eskeli



Molly Mesko



Nora Paddock



Lily Prentice



Emily Needham

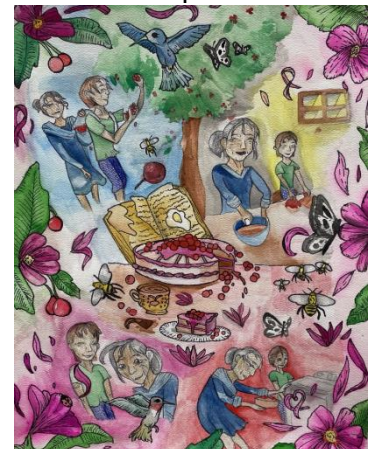


Ava Butera



Be sure to visit the [National Cherry Festival Facebook page](#) to vote for the People's Choice Top Five. Do not vote for more than five or your votes will not be counted. Voting ends on March 25. Best wishes to our talented young artists!

Penelope Garriss





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.