



Connections

A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy Families



February 12, 2021

Volume 21
Issue 20

Dates to remember

Now through Thursday, March 11 – *Open Enrollment Period*

Monday, February 15 – NO SCHOOL, Mid-Winter Break

Tuesday, February 16 – Enrollment Information Meeting, 9:30 am, Staff Gathering Room

GTA's Got Talent

It's either cabin fever or the recent snow day that



encouraged some creativity, but we are thrilled to announce a full lineup of talented students ready to show us their stuff at our virtual talent show – from pet tricks to a baking

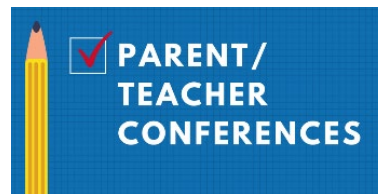
demonstration and everything in between! Students who have signed up are reminded to pay their registration fee, either with cash, check or [credit card though the GTA website](#) to be sure that their spot is reserved. Family members and friends are encouraged to register to be a part of the voting audience. Just follow the instructions below.

How to watch and vote for your favorite talent show act

You can show your support for our students' efforts and vote for your favorite talent show act by watching from the comfort of your own home! Gather your family, make some popcorn and tune in on Zoom at **7:00 pm on Friday, March 5**. Here's how: Prior to the show, click on the Zoom link here <http://bit.ly/GTAGTReg> and fill in your name and email address. Next, click Pay and Register to purchase a virtual ticket with either a PayPal account or credit card to watch the show on one device. You'll receive a registration email confirming the date and time and providing a link to join. After the talent show concludes, you'll receive a ballot in your email to vote for your favorite act. One ballot will be sent per ticket purchased. We hope you'll join in on the fun!

Parent-teacher conferences coming soon

Second semester parent-teacher conferences are planned for **February 25 & 26** and **March 4 & 5**. To schedule yours, either in-person or virtually, use the following links to SchoolBookings, our online conference manager:



Elementary

<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code?code=phzpd>
(Call 995-0665 with questions)

Secondary

<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code?code=w4d2u>
(Call 932-6038 with questions)

Note: Conferences may be in-person or virtual. All Secondary conferences on **February 26** and **March 4** will be virtual through Google Meet, as indicated on SchoolBookings. For Elementary students, please contact the teacher once you have reserved your spot to let them know if you would prefer a virtual meeting. Parents of Elementary *virtual learners* should contact their child's teacher directly to set up a conference.

Congratulations to our Cherry Festival royalty

Our friends at the National Cherry Festival are optimistically moving forward with plans for an actual festival this year, though they are not yet sure what it may look like. With that said, we have selected the 2021 GTA prince and princess. Congratulations to **Ty Wieland** and **Daphne Diephouse**! Stay tuned for more information about festival plans as they unfold.



Open Enrollment period continues

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period



continues through Thursday,

March 11. Enrollment Information Meetings are planned as shown below. Each includes a brief presentation, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities. Masks are required and safe distancing will be practiced.

Monday, February 15 – 6:00 pm*

Tuesday, February 16, 9:30 am

Monday, March 1, 9:30 am

Thursday, March 4, 6:00 pm

Friday, March 5 – 6:00 pm*

Tuesday, March 9, 6:00 pm

*special Kindergarten and Young Explorers Information Nights

If you have friends or family who are interested in learning more about Grand Traverse Academy for their children, please invite them to join us at one of these meetings. Space is limited, so participants are advised to contact Amy Truesdell at (231) 932-6900 or truesdella@mygta.us to reserve their spot. Individual tours with a school leader are also available if these dates and times are not convenient.

Preschool accepting applications for fall

GTA's Mighty Mustangs Preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2021-22 school year. Our preschool offers a play-based and developmentally appropriate program for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds. Options include 2, 3 or 5 mornings or full days per week, and the days of operation follow the GTA school calendar. If you have preschool-aged children or know someone who does, an application and more information can be found at www.mygta.us/page/preschool. Feel free to contact Sharon Swartz, director, at 932-6953 or swartzs@mygta.us with questions.



Girls' softball coach needed

The Mustang athletic department is seeking applicants for a varsity girls' softball coach. Requirements include coaching experience, knowledge of the game, the ability to teach and motivate our student athletes, and a commitment to the success of the program. A

background check and fingerprinting are required. Interested? Contact Shelley Alejandro at alejandros@mygta.us.

Secondary Frost Fest Activities

With the appropriate theme of "What's Next?", Frost Fest 2021 will take place next week, **February 16-19**. Here's what we have planned:

Dress-Up Days*

Monday – No School

Tuesday – Resting Up Day

Wear your GTA appropriate pajamas.

Wednesday – School Day

Students should dress at least 75 percent in their class's assigned color, as follows: **Seniors – Black, Juniors – Gray, Sophomores – Green, Freshmen – Blue, 8th Grade – Purple, 7th Grade – Red**

Thursday – College Bound Day

Wear college gear with the logo from your favorite school.

Friday – Career Day (dress for success)

Wear appropriate business attire. Think, "What would I wear for a corporate board meeting?"

*As always, jeans and spirit wear may be worn any day with a spirit band. GTA-appropriate jeans only, please (no rips, tears, holes or writing).

Video Competition

Each grade will submit a three- to five-minute video, with a theme of, "The Life of...". Any fictional character may be used.

Trivia Competition

Daily trivia questions will be distributed to each lunch room for students to solve as a group. Categories will be history, entertainment and sports.

Cyber Learn-a-Thon opportunity!

Newton's Road, a local STEM-related organization, has a great opportunity for students interested in IT Cybersecurity. This introductory-level Cisco Networking Academy course is a 15-hour, self-paced class offered to students aged 14+ (and their parents, if they wish to

enroll as well). Enroll by February 25 to have four weeks to complete the course by March 26 for a marathon learn-a-thon! Halfway through will be a live recorded panel discussion of cyber careers and the local pathways to achieve them. All who pass the final will receive a certificate of completion from Cisco Networking Academy, a state and globally recognized IT education program. See details on the attached flyer.

Save time and pay online

For your convenience, several fees may be paid directly through the Grand Traverse Academy website via the [Pay Online](#) page at the bottom of the navigation menu. Pay for **Preschool Tuition, Quality Care fees, Virtual Talent Show entry fees and more** – or even make a donation to your favorite GTA project!

Here's how: Click on the fee you'd like to pay, add the required information (selecting any necessary options) and click "Add to Bag." At that point, you may add more to your cart or go directly to checkout. By choosing "Add More," you may pay for more of the chosen item (a milk pass for a different child, another talent show entry fee, etc.). Just be sure to change the child's name or other required information so that we know where to credit the payment. If you wish to continue shopping by adding different fees, choose "Continue Shopping" at checkout to make an additional selection. Once you choose "Checkout" you will be directed to a payment page for secure credit card payment. Items may be removed from your cart at checkout by clicking on the gray "x" next to the item. We're pleased to make payments at GTA more convenient for our families, especially with current restricted access to the building. If you have questions about online payment, please contact Kathy Farrell at farrellk@mygta.us or (231) 932-6005.

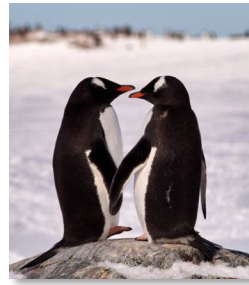
Elementary teaching team requests for 2021-22 accepted

If you would like to request a specific teaching team (or kindergarten teacher) for the next school year, please complete the attached form and turn it in to the Elementary office **no later than Friday, March 12**. Here's how: 1) Review the names of kindergarten teachers and Elementary teaching teams. 2) Write your first and second choice selections in the spaces provided. In the case of Elementary teaching teams, write in the name of the preferred homeroom teacher in the #1 slot; another member of the team

will go in the #2 slot. **Note that only forms with both first and second choices can be considered.** If you have questions, please call the Elementary Office at (231) 995- 0665.

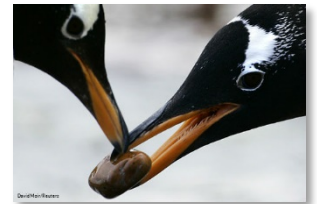
Fun facts

Nearly 150 million Valentine's Day cards are



exchanged each year, but if you have flippers instead of fingers, writing love notes just isn't an option. While many of us are busy buying chocolates, flowers and stuffed bears for our significant others, the male

Adelie and Gentoos penguin is busy searching for the perfect pebble to impress a female. Some are even known to steal the best looking ones from another penguin and pass them off as their own! If the object of his affection accepts, she'll place it in her nest and the two will continue building their pebble mound in preparation for her eggs.



Source: oceana.org