



# Connections

A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy Families



February 19, 2021

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Issue 21

## Dates to remember

Now through Thursday, March 11 – *Open Enrollment Period (see information meeting dates and times below)*

Thursday & Friday, February 25 & 26 – *Parent-Teacher Conferences (see details below)*

Thursday & Friday, March 4 & 5 – *Parent-Teacher Conferences (see details below)*

## Secondary Students of the Month named

Congratulations to the following, who have been selected as Students of the Month for January, based on their display of the character trait of Integrity:

**Weston Kinney**, grade 8, is the son of Robert Kinney and Michelle Kinney. He plays the saxophone in the band and aspires to play professionally one day. Once he is in high school, Weston wants to take classes at the Career-Tech Center and begin taking courses at Northwestern Michigan College while still at GTA. After graduation, he plans to continue college – earning at least a 3.8 GPA – to prepare for a successful career.



**Lola Russell**, grade 8, is the daughter of Andrea Russell and James Russell. New to GTA this year, she has participated in the Girl Scouts, helped plan an outdoor Halloween party as a school elective, won an Optimist award in the fifth grade and has helped with various fundraisers. Lola hopes to volunteer with the Cherryland Humane Society in the future. Her immediate goals include traveling to many places (especially Europe), learning to care for chickens, improve her writing skills and learn more about science and engineering.



**James Brooks**, grade 10, is the son of Jeff and Amy Brooks. He is interested in electricity and programming and enjoys playing strategy-based video games. James says he sees a future in technology and wishes to be a part of it, believing that technology today is advanced but it can be better. He would like to attempt to own his own business one day.



**Elizabeth Kornexl**, grade 10, is the daughter of Kerrie and Robert Kornexl. She is involved in the ATLAS Space Explorers and is currently competing in the Stellar Xplorers Space Challenge, which she hopes her team can win. In her free time, she interns in the information technology department at GTA and is active in the YMCA Breakers swim team. She hopes to become an intern at ATLAS Space Operations in the near future. Elizabeth is interested in space – specifically orbital dynamics – and hopes to work with satellites in the Space Force one day. Elizabeth says she would also love to pursue astrophysics, either as a career or a hobby.



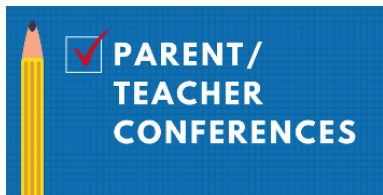
**Congrats,  
you're in!**



Congratulations to **Annabelle Cherup** on her acceptance to Bethany Global University, which combines academics with mission trips.

## Parent-teacher conferences begin next week

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.

## GTA's Got Talent

Students who have signed up to perform in our virtual talent show are reminded to pay their registration fee, either with cash, check or [credit card through 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, but don't delay! **We need an accurate count to be sure that our Zoom Meeting room has adequate space for all of our students' families and friends. Please purchase your virtual tickets by Wednesday, March 3.**

## 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, 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](mailto: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](http://www.mygta.us/page/preschool). Feel free to contact Sharon Swartz, director, at 932-6953 or [swartzs@mygta.us](mailto: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](mailto:alejandros@mygta.us).

## 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](mailto: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

**The heads on Easter Island have bodies.** The iconic



stone heads protruding from the ground on Easter Island are familiar to most, but many don't

realize what lies beneath the surface. In the 1910's, archaeologists studying the hundreds of stone statues on the Pacific Island excavated two of the figures, [revealing full torsos](#), which measure as high as 33 feet.

Source: [bestlifeonline.com](http://bestlifeonline.com)

# Grand Traverse Academy Teaching Team Request Form

I would like to request the following team teachers for my student(s) for the 2021-22 school year:

Student Name	Grade in Fall	First Choice Team Request*	Second Choice Team Request*
_____	_____	1 _____ / 2 _____	1 _____ / 2 _____
_____	_____	1 _____ / 2 _____	1 _____ / 2 _____
_____	_____	1 _____ / 2 _____	1 _____ / 2 _____
_____	_____	1 _____ / 2 _____	1 _____ / 2 _____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*Please choose a teaching team from the list below; indicate your first and second choice teacher within each team. Only forms with a first and second choice team can be considered. Forms must be turned in to the Elementary Office by March 12, 2021.

## Teaching Teams\*\*

Kindergarten	Lower Elementary 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades	Middle Elementary 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Upper Elementary 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Conrad (Young Explorers)	Bohrer/Flores	Cherup/Kipke/Wilson	Alejandro/Justin Lazar/Wingfield
Hartwig	Burrus/Dennis	Hetherington/Michelle Lazar	Haberlein/Windon
Johnson	Gorton/Rogers		
Myers			
Terrill			

\*\* Note that Team Teachers and locations are subject to change.

