## Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

Monday-Friday, October 10-14 - Scholastic Book Fair, Small Gym (see volunteer information on page two)

Thursday \& Friday, October 13 \& 14 and 20 \& 21 -Parent-Teacher Conferences and Used Uniform Sales (details at right)

Thursday, October 20 -School Picture Retakes

## It's conference time

Our first parent-teacher conferences of the school year are right around the corner! All parents are encouraged to meet with their children's teacher(s) to discuss their progress or any concerns you may have. Reserve your spot at School
Bookings online for Elementary or Secondary. For your convenience, you may also scan one of these QR codes:

Elementary


Secondary


Parents without internet access may give us a call (9950665 for Elementary or 932-6038 for Secondary) and we will schedule conferences for you. Conferences are planned as follows:

| Date | Elementary | Secondary |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Thursday, <br> October 13 | $4: 20-8: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ | $4: 00-7: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ |
| Friday, <br> October 14 | $12: 20-3: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ | $1: 00-3: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ |
| Thursday, <br> October 20 | $4: 20-8: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ | $4: 00-7: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ |
| Friday, <br> October 21 | $12: 20-3: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ | $1: 00-3: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ |

## A note from Family Council

Parent-teacher conferences are just a week away! The GTA Family Council will once again be providing dinner for teachers and staff members who stay during these long days. Please click on the links below to bring an item, set up the room or make a donation toward the purchase of pizza, ice, paper products and utensils.

## Thursday, October 13, 2022 Conferences Thursday, October 20 Conferences

Your contribution of any kind or amount is greatly appreciated.

## Used uniform sale during conferences

Gently-used uniform pieces in a variety of sizes and styles will be available for purchase during parentteacher conferences. Stop by the Silver 4 classroom to check out the selection! Donations may be dropped off in either office prior to Wednesday, October 12.

## Students of the Month chosen

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

Bailey Stephen, grade 8, is the daughter of Scott
 Stephen. She enjoys running, hunting, fishing and drawing. At school, Bailey is involved in cross country, choir and band, and has been a member of the Builders Club. She plans to join the track team in the spring and aspires to become captain of both the junior high and high school teams as well, and to qualify for the state meet at least twice in high school. Other high school plans include membership in the Key Club, the National Honor Society and the Eco Club, and playing soccer all four years. Last summer, she volunteered at a daycare center and she looks forward to working at Grand Bay Marine next summer. After graduation, Bailey is interested in joining the Air Force.

Nathan Kinney, grade 8, is the son of Robert and Michelle Kinney. He enjoys sports
 and is active in cross country, basketball and track \& field at school. In addition, he plays the tuba in band and is a member of both the Robotics and Drama Clubs. Future goals for Nathan include involvement in his community and becoming a missionary to Brazil. His current career plan is to become an elementary teacher after earning degrees in mathematics and computer science.

Dylan Haines, grade 10, is the son of Melissa Haines and Joseph Haines. In his free time, he
 enjoys playing collectible card games and running, and took $2^{\text {nd }}$ place in a 5 K at his previous school. Dylan loves band and has enjoyed all the concerts here at GTA. An interesting job he has had was picking garlic scapes at a farm last summer. Future endeavors include becoming a better musician, becoming more fit, making a difference in the lives of people and animals and making people around him feel happy.

Hattie Croff, grade 10, is the daughter of Julie and Josh Croff. At GTA, she is a member of
 the National Honor Society and has played on the softball team. Hattie also enjoys teaching piano, and volunteering at the Cherryland Humane Society and her church. She hopes to become either salutatorian or valedictorian of her class on graduation from high school. Her goals for the future include earning a college degree in writing and literature, and pursuing a career in music - perhaps as a professional keyboardist.

## Ski racing team informational meeting set

Parents and interested high school students are invited to attend an informational meeting for the Great North Alpine ski team on Monday, October 10, at 7:30 pm at Mt. Holiday (on Holiday Road off US-31N east of Traverse City). Students should take their current ski boots along so that coaches can confirm their fit. And if you haven't done so already, students or their parents should contact Jenn Walter, one of the team
coordinators, at bjwalter@charter.net or (231) 6314887 to sign up for the team. Be sure to provide an email address and phone number so that they may add you to their mailing list.

## Blood drive planned

Here's a chance to give the gift of life! Students in the
 GTA National Honor Society are planning a blood drive here at school on Friday, November 4, from 9:30 am-2:00 pm in the Versiti Blood Bus (located in the south parking lot). Appointments are appreciated, but walk-ins are also welcomed. To make an appointment, see the attached flyer or email Samantha Larson, GTA's event coordinator, at larsons24@mygta.us. Note that donors must be 16 or older and those under age 17 must present a signed parental consent form, available in the Secondary Office. All donors will receive a FREE certificate for Culver's frozen custard!

## Mud Run fun!

Grand Traverse Academy's cross country team hosted teams from Frankfort, Manton and Marion for the third annual Mud Run Relay last Saturday. Team costumes were suggested and the Mustangs dressed


## Help wanted

Do you have a passion for basketball, a desire to

support Mustang athletics and some extra time on your hands during winter evenings? If you answered "yes," you might be the perfect basketball scoreboard operator for GTA! We are seeking someone to set up the equipment, operate the scoreboard and make announcements during both boys' and girls' junior high and high school basketball games from November through February. Requirements are as follows:

- Knowledge of the game of basketball, including rules and scoring
- Available from 4:30-7:00 pm for 12 junior high games and 5:30-9:30 pm for 20-24 high school games
- Experience operating a scoreboard a plus, but will train, if necessary

A small stipend will be paid. If interested, please contact Mrs. Alejandro at alejandros@mygta.us.

## Book Fair volunteers needed

The Scholastic Book Fair is back next week and
 volunteers are critical to its success! We so appreciate those who have signed up but need a few more to greet our students and parents in the mornings, help shoppers during the day, and welcome parents and students during evening parent-teacher conferences. Our book fairs earn rewards that go toward the purchase of books and other educational materials for our teachers and students. PLEASE consider taking some time to volunteer. Our students love when they see their parents helping out at school and it's a great way to meet other GTA parents. Here's how:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on SignUp: https://signup.com/go/nKhZpaC
2. Enter your email address. (You will not need to register an account on SignUp)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots; SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Note: SignUp does not share your email
address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Mrs. Schuetze at schuetzej@mygta.us and she can sign you up manually.

Thank you for supporting our school!

## Get ready for the Spelling Bee!

Our annual Spelling Bee is months away, but it's not too
 early for interested students to begin practicing. The event is open to $5^{\text {th }}-8^{\text {th }}$ graders and group practice starts in November, with the Bee planned for late January. Students may ask their Upper Elementary or junior high ELA teachers for access to Ms. Myers' Spelling Bee Google Classroom for the school word list at any time.

## eWallet, online shopping available for Book Fair purchases

Scholastic eWallet. Parents may set up eWallet, a safe cash-free way for your child to shop the Fair from Monday-Friday, October 10-14 instead of sending them to school with cash. Simply visit the Book Fair home page and click on the eWallet "Get Started" button at the middle of the page. From there, sign in to the Scholastic registration or set up a new account. All onscreen instructions should be followed to complete eWallet setup. eWallet funds never expire and can be used to shop online with Scholastic or to fund an eWallet for a future Book Fair.

Online shopping. (with over 3,000 titles!) will begin on the opening day of the fair, October 10, and runs through October 23. Note that Scholastic will grant GTA 25 percent in rewards when our families shop online during this period!

## Thank you to North Carpool users!

A note of thanks to parents who use North Carpool (Hammond Road entrance). We appreciate your attention to the safety of our students and staff by parking in a marked spot when dropping off students and picking up high school students. And we've noticed many families pulling up past the crosswalk to drop off students in the carpool lane - your help in speeding up this already quick and efficient process is greatly appreciated by all!

## Counseling corner

Academic awards. High school students who earned a GPA of 3.4 or higher for both semesters last year will be honored at a Varsity Letter Awards Assembly on Tuesday, October 11 at 11:45 am in the Big Gym.

Testing next week. Juniors will take the PSAT and the ASVAB will be administered to seniors on the morning of Wednesday, October 12. The ASVAB is optional for seniors with morning college classes. Arriving to school promptly is especially important on that day!

## Order a yearbook now and save!

Orders are being taken now for the 2023 Secondary yearbook. This full-color, hardcover edition is \$45 through October 30 and the price increases the longer you wait. It's \$50 from October 31-January 27 and \$55 after January 28. There are three easy ways to order:

- Visit www.yearbookordercenter.com and use school number 12952
- Call toll-free at (800) 255-6287
- Complete the attached form, include a check payable to Grand Traverse Academy and mail or deliver it to the Secondary Office



## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

Box Tops for Education. Support our school as you

NO MORE CLIPPING
 shop! The Box Tops mobile app allows you to scan store receipts, find eligible grocery items and instantly add Box
Tops to our earnings online. Download the app now to take advantage of this easy way to earn money for GTA.

Save your Oleson's receipts, please! Do you shop at Oleson's Food Markets? Did you know that your cash register receipts are worth money for our school? With the Oleson's


Community Share Program, you earn "Community

Share Points" each time you shop (with the exception of alcohol purchases). One point equals one cent, so if you spend \$100 on groceries, you've earned \$1 for GTA! These points add up quickly and resulted in over \$1,000 in earnings last year. It's easy to participate - simply save your receipts and have your child drop them off in either office.

## Junior high basketball starting soon

 Junior high boys' basketball is right around the corner! Students and parents have been sent an email with details on how to participate. Please note that the sports physical must be dated after April 15, 2022 to qualify. The athletic fee is $\$ 75$ and paperwork is due on Friday, October 21. Practices begin on October 26.

Girls' basketball begins in January, so watch for information coming soon!

## Ongoing events

Elementary Pizza Days - Every other Wednesday, as follows: October 12 \& 26, November 9, December 7, January 11 \& 25, February 8 \& 22, March 8 \& 22, April 12 \& 26 and May 10 \& 24 (order and pay by the preceding Monday using forms sent home on off weeks), $\$ 1.50$ 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

Elementary Doughnut Sales - Every Friday in the Intention Room (at the entrance to the Elementary Wing), 7:50-8:05 am, \$1 each for several varieties

## Secondary Doughnut Sales - Every Friday in

Multipurpose Rooms 1 \& 2, 7:40-8:00 am, \$1 each for several varieties

Secondary Beverage Sales - Monday-Thursday at Lunch in Bronze 1, \$1.50 each for Snapple fruit drinks

Fill the Pantry Jeans Days - Thursdays: November 17, January 12, March 23, May 25 (\$2 per person to wear jeans with a uniform top)

## DONATE BLOOD

## You're never too young to save a life

## FRIDAY

 NOVEMBER

9:30AM-2PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

## Blood Drive Hosted By Grand Traverse Academy

Join us on the Blood Bus in the Elementary Parking Lot for this important event!

Please give the gift of life - your donation could save THREE local patients!

To Sign Up:
Visit www.Versiti.org/mi
Scan the QR Code
or Call 1-866-Mi-Blood


Appointments preferred, walk-ins welcomed!! All donors will receive a FREE certificate for Culver's Custard!

## YEARBOOK Preserve the Memories

## 2023 YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

## Grand Traverse Academy Middle School and High School

## Purchase now to secure your copy! ORDER EARLY TO SAVE \$5.00 - Early Bird Special ends 10/30/22

## 3 Easy ways to Order:

Online: www.yearbookordercenter.com (school number 12952)
Call toll free: 1-800 2556287 or
Fill out form below and attach a check payable:
to Grand Traverse Academy - bring it to the office

Student Name: $\qquad$
Contact Email: $\qquad$
Phone: $\qquad$
Advisory $\qquad$
Grade: $\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$

Yearbook Price on or before 10/30
Yearbook Price from 10/31 to 1/27/2023
Yearbook Price after 1/28/2023
Student name personalization
$\$ 45.00$
$\$ 50.00$
\$55.00
\$5.00 Additional

