



# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**Thursday & Friday, October 20 & 21** – Parent-Teacher Conferences (see below)

**Monday-Friday, October 17-21** – Secondary Homecoming Week

**Tuesday, October 18** – Tuesday Talks with the Superintendent, Coffee Shop, 8:00-8:30 am (see below)

**Thursday, October 20** – School Picture Retakes

**Thursday, October 20** – Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00pm, Aqua 5

**Saturday, October 29** – Family Fun Day (hosted by the Family Council – see below), Jacob's Farm, 2:00 pm

## It's conference time!

Parent-teacher conferences continue next week as



shown below. If you haven't already done so, be sure to reserve your spot at School Bookings online for [Elementary](#) or [Secondary](#). For your convenience, you may also scan

the appropriate QR code:

Elementary



Secondary



Parents without internet access may give us a call (995-0665 for Elementary or 932-6038 for Secondary) and we will schedule conferences for you. Conferences are planned as follows:

Date	Elementary	Secondary
Thursday, October 20	4:20-8:00 pm	4:00-7:00 pm
Friday, October 21	12:20-3:00 pm	1:00-3:00 pm

## Family Council news

**Parent-teacher conference night staff meals.** Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Family Council-sponsored conference night dinners! Last night was a big hit and we have one more to go. If you have not yet signed up to make a donation of either food or cash and would like to, please click on the link below.

[Thursday, October 20 Conferences](#)

These dinners go a long way in our efforts toward making the staff of GTA feel valued on these long days.

**Uniform sales during conferences.** Gently-used uniform pieces in a variety of sizes and styles are available for purchase during parent-teacher conferences. Stop by the Silver 4 classroom to check out the selection! Donations are still welcome and may be dropped off in either office prior to Wednesday, October 19.

**Fall Family Fun Day planned.** Family Council is planning an afternoon of fun and games at the corn maze at Jacob's Farm for GTA families on **Saturday, October 29, beginning at 2:00 pm**. Note that the maze can take up to two hours to complete, so arrive a bit earlier to purchase tickets. Mark your calendar and see the attached flyer for details!

## Tuesday Talks with the superintendent planned

**Michelle Floering**, our new superintendent, would love



to personally connect with our GTA community through informal conversations. If you have a question or concern, want to know more about Choice Theory, character education or other GTA topic,

she'll be in the coffee shop (to the right of the south entrance) **every Tuesday morning from 8:00-8:30 am, beginning October 18**. No appointment necessary!

## Elementary Students of the Month announced

Congratulations to the following Elementary students, who were selected as Students of the Month based on the character trait of Kindness:

**Gideon Packer**, kindergarten, is the son of Daniel and Nancy Packer. His teacher, Miss Myers, says, "Gideon is a student who is always standing up for others. He notices when other kids aren't getting a turn and tells other to include him. He notices when others aren't being played with and asks them if they want to play with him. Gideon is very empathetic and kind to everyone. He is a great role model for showing kindness in our classroom. Thanks, Gideon, for making our classroom such a loving place in which to learn!"



**Macie Smith**, grade 2, is the daughter of Colin and Sara Smith. According to Mrs. Bohrer, "Macie is a very kind young lady. She is always thinking of others before she thinks of herself. Macie looks out for her peers and will put her needs aside to help a friend. I frequently see her performing random acts of kindness for friends, teachers and staff. Macie's favorite thing to do is to randomly thank adults in the building or help them with a task. Her smile, along with her kindness, can make anyone feel better about their day!"



**Alayna Williams**, grade 4, is the daughter of Brian and Leah Williams. Mrs. Cherup, her teacher, says, "Alayna has gone out of her way to show kindness to the 3rd grade students and new-to-GTA classmates in our classroom. She has taken the time to show them, rather than tell them, what the routines and procedures are as they are still learning expectations. When Alayna noticed that another student put their red folder in their mailbox rather than in the basket in belonged in, I saw her get the folder, take it to the classmate, and say very politely, 'Can I show you where this goes in the morning?' She then showed and explained what to do. Alayna did this totally on her own. This is just one example of how she shows kindness at school!"



**Leonidas Moeser**, grade 5, is the son of Robert and Yumi Moeser. Mr. Thomas says, "Leo is incredibly kind to everyone in class. Even though it's his first year at GTA, he exemplifies our character values by going out of his way to get to know others and to help out. Just the other day, a student spilled their pencil box



and he immediately stopped what he was doing to help them clean up. This happened not just once, but twice, in the same day. He has been a kind during recess and class time! Leo goes out of his way to show kindness to other students. He is very quick to identify when someone is having a hard time or experiencing an awkward moment and immediately goes to the rescue to display kind and caring qualities for others."

## Secondary Homecoming Week activities

Homecoming Week for Secondary students is next week, **October 17-21**, with a high school dance on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students have been emailed all the details, but in case you're wondering why they're not going to school in uniform, the following dress-up days\* are planned (for students and staff), with a theme of "Hollywood":

### Monday, October 17 – Morning after the Oscars

After a long night watching the awards, school-appropriate pajamas are permitted.

### Tuesday, October 18 – Multiverse Day

Characters' costumes from Marvel, DC Comics, Star Wars, etc. are the wardrobe of the day.

### Wednesday, October 19 – "Mean Girls"

According to the movie's mean girl bylaws, "On Wednesdays, we wear pink."

### Thursday, October 20 – Adam Sandler Day

Comfortable, laid-back streetwear is the dress of choice for this Hollywood "fashion icon."

### Friday, October 21 – Freaky Friday

Just like in the movie, students and adults will switch places, with students dressing like adults and vice versa.

*\*GTA-appropriate jeans may be worn with a spirit wear or uniform shirt or as part of a costume, with the purchase of a Mustang Spirit Band bracelet: \$5 each in the Secondary Office and good for other events during the school year.*

## Thank You!

A big thanks goes to all of our GTA parents who volunteered for the Scholastic Book Fair – especially those who juggled schedules to step up and fill spaces where we had the most need. Our annual book fair would not be possible without you! Thanks also for all the book purchases. As of Thursday, we had already made \$6,000 in sales! Don't forget that you can still [shop online](#) through October 23, where you'll find thousands of titles to choose from and earn 25 percent for our school. Books make wonderful gifts!

### GTA hosts Elementary cross country meet

It was a gorgeous day for cross country on Tuesday, as GTA hosted five local elementary teams for a meet on our campus. A total of 62 boys and 89 girls participated! The Mustang boys took first place and the girls came in third. A big thanks to **Coach Kipke, Ms. Dent, Mrs. Alejandro, Mrs. VanHouzen, Mrs. Wenger, Mrs. Kinney, Mrs. Gruennert, Mr. Horning, Mr. and Mrs. Shimko, Petra Foote, Chase Snell, Kaitlynn Payne, Jurnie Shimko** and all the other parent and student volunteers who made this event possible. If you were there and have any photos to share, please send them to Mrs. Farrell at [farrellk@mygt.us](mailto:farrellk@mygt.us) and we'll post them on Facebook.

### High school students honored at assembly

On Tuesday, we celebrated the academic achievements of 44 of our high school students at a Varsity Academic Awards Assembly. Those who earned a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher for the first and second semesters of the 2021-22 school year received honors.

Congratulations to the following: **First Year** – Dana Bacon, Sadie Brown-Bannon, Ava Butera, Hattie Croff, McKenna Davids, Charles Dennis, Arabella Dent, Katie Dreychan, Maran Edgren, Elisha Gamalski, Eden Hadfield, Lillian Hassler, Anna Hoffman, Neilah Koumliene, Samantha Larson, Analese Lau, Ethan Lawrence, Peter Mimnaugh, Andrew Pavwoski, Megan Pavwoski, Phoebe Riess, Marcus Rose, Savannah Smith, Madelyn Stawowy, Cassidy Weber, Carson Williams.

**Second Year** – Tristan Bembeneck, Liliya Cherkasov, Alleah Dix, Lillian Fitch, Amberly Hadfield, Lillie Tschirhart. **Third Year** – Bethaney Beaver, Isaac Deneau, Eliana Evans, Petra Foote, Ella Froehlich, Kathryn Hanes, Aariyah Harmon, Reed Hudson, Julia Jones, Elizabeth Kornexl, Britta Olshove, Norah VanWingerden.

### Brrr...chilly weather is here!

With the temperatures dipping and even a little bit of white stuff in next week's forecast, parents are reminded that Elementary students may not go outdoors without a coat during the school day. Please be sure that your children are wearing a coat to school every day, now that the weather has changed.

### 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<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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. Permission slips to participate (attached) are due on **Friday, December 2**, the first day of the required group practices.

### Blood drive planned

GTA's National Honor Society will host 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@mygt.us](mailto:larsons24@mygt.us). Donors must be 16 or older; those under age 17 must present a signed parental consent form, available in the Secondary Office. All donors will receive a certificate for free Culver's frozen custard!

### 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!

## 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; 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](http://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

### Dad Jokes from Don



I ordered my wife a fireproof vault and a stereo system for her birthday.

*They arrived safe and sound!*

## Registration for high school Nordic ski team now open

The Traverse City Area High School Nordic ski team (cross country) is offered to students in grades 8-12 in Traverse City and the surrounding area. [Registration](#) for the 2022-23 season is now open and lasts through November 4. The season officially begins on Monday, November 14. Interested students and their parents are invited to an informational meeting on Monday, October 24 at 6:00 pm, with the location to be determined.

## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

**Box Tops for Education.** Support our school as you 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.

## Alpine ski team meeting postponed

The Great North Alpine ski team (downhill) informational meeting that was scheduled for Monday, October 10 has been postponed. Watch for more information as we receive it. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Walter, GNA coordinator, at (231) 631-4887.

## Ongoing events

**Med Club Muffins (Secondary)** – Every Monday from 7:45-8:00 am, \$2.00 each for several varieties, Multi-Purpose Room

**Elementary Pizza Days** – Every other Wednesday, as follows: October 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)





## Spelling Bee Permission Slip

*Due to Ms. Myers by*

**Friday, December 2, 2021, before or at the first meeting.**

I give my student, \_\_\_\_\_,

(please print)

permission to participate in the Grand Traverse Academy Spelling Bee  
on the evening of Tuesday, January 17, 2023. I understand that, prior to the school bee,  
my student will be **required** to attend the Friday meetings in Bronze 1 from  
12:15-2:00 p.m. on:

**\*\* Friday, December 2, 2022**

**Friday, December 9, 2022**

**Friday, January 6, 2023**

**Friday, January 13, 2023**

I also understand that students are expected **to study** for this spelling bee.

If he/she is one of the top two finishers, my student will represent Grand  
Traverse Academy at the Regional Bee on March 19 at 11:00 am at the City Opera house.  
An alternate will also be named in case of a finalist's inability to attend.

***\*\*Students unable or unwilling to attend the Friday practices are not eligible to compete in the school bee.***

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Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student's homeroom or advisory teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# DONATE BLOOD

You're never too young to save a life

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER

4

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](http://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](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com) (school number 12952)

Call toll free: 1-800 255 6287 or

Fill out form below and attach a check payable:

to **Grand Traverse Academy** - bring it to the office

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisory \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearbook Price on or before 10/30 \$45.00

Yearbook Price from 10/31 to 1/27/2023 \$50.00

Yearbook Price after 1/28/2023 \$55.00

Student name personalization \$5.00 Additional





# GTA Fall Family Fun Day

(hosted by Family Council)



**At The Corn Maze at Jacob's Farm!**

**Saturday, October 29, 2:00 pm**



**Jacob's Farm**

**7100 East Traverse Highway (M72 West)**



**\$15 Adults, \$10 Ages 5-11, Ages 4 & Under Free**

**Kitchen Open until 9:00 pm**

**Plan to arrive a bit early to get in line to purchase tickets.  
Free fire pits, playground and connections with GTA families!**

**Questions? Contact Jessica at [jessicacollings@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicacollings@yahoo.com)**