



Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Now through Thursday, March 9 – 2023-24 Open Enrollment Period

Monday, February 20 – NO SCHOOL, Mid-Winter Break

Tuesday-Friday, February 21-24 – Secondary Frost Fest (High School Dance on the 25th, 7:00-9:00 pm)

Now through Thursday, February 23 – NJHS Food & Personal Care Items Drive

Thursday, February 23 – Enrollment Information Meeting, 9:30 am, Aqua 5

Monday, March 6 – Read-a-Thon Returns! (see details on page 4)

Thursday, March 9 – 7th Grade Orientation Meeting (for parents), 6:00 pm, Aqua 5

NJHS food & personal care items drive continues

As part of this week's junior high and high school Frost Fest activities, the GTA National Junior Honor Society is collecting donations of canned and pantry foods as well as personal care items through **Thursday, February 23**. Secondary students should turn in all items to their advisors, as the winning advisory will be treated to an ice cream party!

Needed items include 5-ounce cans of chicken or tuna, pasta sauce, soups, canned fruit in juice, oatmeal, peanut butter, rice, 1-pound bags of dried beans, spaghetti or other pasta, disposable diapers, baby wipes, 12-ounce bottles of shampoo, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap and stick deodorant.

Thank you for your participation and support of our neighbors in need.

Enrollment Information Meetings continue

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2023-24 school year **continues through Thursday, March 9**. Several Enrollment Information Meetings are scheduled, as shown below. Each includes a brief presentation, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities.

Enrollment Information Meetings		
Day	Date	Time
Thursday	February 23	9:30 am
Thursday	March 2	6:00 pm
Monday	March 6	9:30 am

If you have friends or family members who are interested in learning more about Grand Traverse Academy for their children, please invite them to contact Amy Truesdell at (231) 995-0665 or enrollment@mygta.us to reserve their spot at one of these meetings. Individual tours with a school leader are also available by appointment.

Varsity girls' basketball celebrates Parent/Senior Night

GTA honored our senior players, and players thanked



their parents for their support during the season at Tuesday night's Senior/Parent Night girls' basketball game. We will miss **Julia Jones, Jurnie Shimko, Petra Foote** and **Bethaney Beaver** next year!

SECONDARY FROST FEST ACTIVITIES

Frost Fest 2023, for students in grades 7-1,2 takes place next week, **February 21-24**. Here's what's in store:

Dress-Up Days*

Monday – (No School)

Tuesday – PJ's

School-appropriate pajamas (no leggings or yoga pants, please)

Wednesday – Soccer Mom vs. Barbeque Dad

Jeans, cardigans or sweaters for "moms" and khakis, button-up shirts, aprons and sunglasses for "dads" (no leggings or yoga pants, please)

Thursday – Neon

Neon colors

Friday – College and Professional Sports

Sports gear that supports a favorite team (pants with logo may be included)

*As an alternative, spirit wear tops may be worn with uniform pants/skirt/shorts any day, with a spirit band bracelet (available in the Secondary Office for \$5).

Competition

Advisories are collecting canned goods and personal care items, which should be given to their advisor. The advisory with the most items will be treated to an ice cream party.

High School Dance

High school students are invited to a "Winter Luau" dance in the Big Gym from 7:00-9:00 pm on Saturday, February 25.

Tickets are \$10 in advance. Outside guests are not permitted.



Parent-teacher conferences coming soon

Second semester parent-teacher conferences are



planned for **March 7, 9 & 10** for both Elementary and Secondary students. To schedule yours, use the following links to SchoolBookings, our online conference manager. **Note**

that the schedules will not be open until February 21. Watch for an email from the office with details.

Elementary



<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code/s5xa7>

(Call 995-0665 with questions)

Secondary



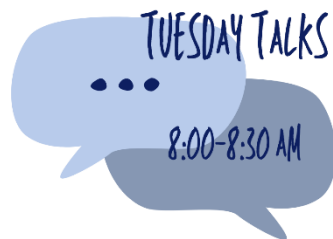
<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code/8jbtb>

(Call 932-6038 with questions)

All parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in parent-teacher conferences as a way to stay connected with teachers, share concerns and successes, and send a message to your children that school is important. The more their parents are involved, the better children perform in school. We look forward to seeing you!

Tuesday Talks continue

If you have a question or concern, want to know more



about Choice Theory, character education or other GTA topic, **Michelle Floering**, superintendent, will be in the south entrance lobby (outside the Elementary Office) every

Tuesday morning from 8:00-8:30 am. No appointment necessary!

Family Council plans used uniform sale during conferences

The GTA Family Council will hold a used uniform sale



during our upcoming parent-teacher conference evening hours. If you have clean, gently used GTA uniform pieces that you would like to

donate to the sale, please drop them off in either office. Proceeds will support Family Council events and projects that benefit all of our families. Thank you in advance for anything you can contribute.

Students of the Month announced

Congratulations to the following, who were named Students of the Month:

Elementary – Work Ethic



Kyle Kaibigan, kindergarten, is the son of Cherry and Erwin Kaibigan. Ms. Hartwig says, “ Kyle displays exemplary work ethic in everything he does. He produces quality work every time he picks up a pencil. Even on tasks that are not particularly difficult for him, he takes his time, stays focused and checks his work before completion. I can always count on him to set a positive example and help inspire his classmates to do their best. I am so proud of Kyle and his incredible work ethic!”



Josie Vermilyea, grade 1, is the daughter of Stacey and Ben Vermilyea. According to Ms. Zak, “Each and every day, Josie comes into the classroom ready to work. No matter the subject or time of day, I know Josie will always give 110% towards her assignments. Josie does not let anything stop her from doing her very best! Her excellent work ethic radiates onto others around her and encourages them to do their very best.”



Ella Black, grade 5, is the daughter of Hannah and Shawn Black. Mr. Camden says, “Ella comes to school prepared and ready to work every day! She asks thoughtful questions when she is doing assignments and tests because she cares about the quality of her work. The quality of her work is always neat and organized. She does an exemplary job of staying on task and going above and beyond when completing assignments and assessments. I love having her in my class!”



Max Zionskowski, grade 6, is the son of Jessica and Brian Zionskowski. According to Mr. Thomas, “Max is the epitome of work ethic. He is constantly completing lessons early and spending extra time to further expand his learning. He does this on

his own and with his own initiative. He is incredibly invested in his own education and it shows through his work ethic.”

Secondary – Integrity



Kylie Vermilyea, grade 7, is the daughter of Stacey and Ben Vermilyea. She enjoys music, sports, writing and baking. Her goals include working harder to improve her performance in sports, learning hip hop dance and learning to play the guitar. She also wants to do her best to be a good friend to others.



Theodore Hassler, grade 8, is the son of Brad and Amber Hassler. In his free time, he likes to whittle and do welding. Theodore also enjoys reading and playing tabletop games. His current goals for school are earning at least a 3.7 GPA and deciding on a profession. Future goals include owning a car and having his own place to live.



Madelyn Stawowy, grade 10, is the daughter of Shannan Spitz and Ken Stawowy. She is dual enrolled at NMC and plans to join the track & field team but wants to place most of her focus on schoolwork. Hobbies include photography, drawing and writing, and she enjoys reading. This summer, she plans to get a job and take a class in Latin. Madelyn’s goals include getting a driver license and improving her art skills. After graduation, she is interested in earning a degree in physics or astronomy.



Jack Craig, grade 10, is the son of Jennifer and TJ Craig. At school, he enjoys helping his fellow students in math, especially geometry. His interests lie in mathematical concepts; theorizing about numbers; space and gravity; engineering and problem solving. Goals include learning to surf and learning to cook a wide variety of foods. Ultimately, Jack would like to become a skilled scientist in many categories and to have enough wealth to live comfortably.

A message from Family Council:

Read-a-thon is back!

You may remember that Family Council hosted a very



successful Read-a-thon last year to encourage reading and help build classroom

libraries through a fundraising component. Last year (our first Read-a-thon), K-6 students read for a total of 90,512 minutes and raised a whopping \$13,365!

We were so excited about our past success that we're bringing Read-a-thon back and adding 7th and 8th graders to the mix! With the addition of two more grades, our goals this year are 100,00 minutes read and \$18,000 raised.

Read-a-thons get students excited about reading and give friends and family the opportunity to encourage your child to read even more. Our Read-a-thon starts **Monday March 6, 2023**. About one week before our Read-a-thon starts, we will send home instructions on how to activate your reader's personal page. This is where you will be able to view and record their progress. However, we encourage you to get a head start by activating your reader's account today by clicking on <https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/kmvyqa/1> and following the simple instructions.

We've chosen Read-a-thon because it will not take a lot of your time, gives your child another reason to read and helps in the development of stronger reading skills. We hope EVERYONE participates.

Thanks so much!
GTA Family Council

Last chance to order elementary yearbooks

The deadline for yearbook orders for elementary students is approaching fast! Teachers have sent home envelopes with students who have not yet placed an order. If your child(ren) would like a 2022-23 school yearbook, please order by the deadline of **Monday, February 27**.

Update: North carpool procedures

Thanks so much to the parents who are helping to keep the north carpool line moving quickly by pulling ahead to the farthest space beyond the crosswalk to drop your children off in the morning. As a reminder, there is no need to stop at the crosswalk unless directed to do so for pedestrians. This allows for more students to be dropped off at once, making carpool quicker for everyone, and gets as many cars as possible into the driveway and out of the road, where they may be blocking traffic. Please follow the instructions of the carpool attendant, who is positioned at the crosswalk to ensure the safe crossing of pedestrians.

School absences or late arrivals

If your child will be late for school or absent for the day, **please call the office by 8:30 am**. Parents will be contacted to verify any unexcused absences after that time.

Elementary 995-0665 / Secondary 932-6038

Preschool enrolling now for 2023-24

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!

Coffee's on – last call!

Mr. Thomas's 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 next Friday, February 24** and will be delivered the following week. See the attached order form for details and to place your order. They thank you for your support!

A note from Family Council

Parent-teacher conferences are just around the corner!



The GTA Family Council will once again be providing dinner for teachers and staff members who stay during evening conferences. These are long days with just a short break for dinner. Please click on the links below to bring an item (soft drinks, fruit, vegetables, snacks,

dessert), help set up the room or make a donation toward the purchase of pizza.

[Tuesday, March 7, 2023 Conferences](#)

[Thursday, March 9, 2023 Conferences](#)

Your contribution of any kind or amount is greatly appreciated!

Orientation meeting for 6th grade parents planned

As a reminder, on **Thursday, March 9**, we will host a 7th Grade Orientation Meeting for parents of 6th graders at 6:00 pm in Aqua 5. The topics covered will include the secondary attendance policy, athletic opportunities, uniforms and junior high course choices. This meeting will also be available online. Virtual attendance information will be released soon and RSVP information will be shared closer to the event. Please refer to the letter sent to parents of current 6th graders in January for details about other junior high transition activities.

Have a question?

No question is too silly or trivial to ask! Here's where to go for a fast answer to general questions about all things GTA, like uniforms, carpool procedures, school hours, procedures and more:

Elementary Office: (231) 995-0665

Secondary Office: (231) 932-6038

info@mygta.us

For answers to more specific questions, please refer to the [list on our website](#). We want to be sure that you know exactly where to go for accurate answers.

Traverse City Curling Club announces curling for students

After-school curling on Wednesdays for students ages

8-18 and junior curling on

Saturdays for ages 5-18 is now

offered at the new Traverse City Curling Club at 1712 South Garfield Avenue in Traverse City (in the Cherryland Center). See the

attached information for details or

sign up at www.tccurling.org.



Ongoing events

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

Sophomore Class Bagel Sales – Every Wednesday from
7:40-8:00 am, \$2.00 each for several varieties, Multipurpose Room 4 and the Intention Room (Mrs. VanHouzen's office)

Elementary Pizza Days – Every other Wednesday, as follows: February 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

NHS Secondary Doughnut Sales – Every Friday in Multipurpose Rooms 1 & 2, 7:40-8:00 am, \$2 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: March 23, May 25 (\$2 per person to wear jeans with a uniform top)



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, February 24th 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 _____



Need an after-school activity to bridge the gap between seasons?

The Traverse City Curling Club is announcing after school curling for students ages 8-18.

Wednesdays 3:45-5:30 p.m.

Feb.22nd - Mar.22nd

We also have junior curling on Saturdays 12:00-2:00pm for kids ages 5-18.

Cost is \$110 includes Junior annual membership and 5 week Juniors League (Learn to Curl)

Please bring a clean pair of tennis shoes & warm flexible clothing. Helmets are required for kids 10 and under.

Sign up at www.tccurling.org