

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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

Saturday, February 25 – High School Frost Fest Dance, 7:00-9:00 pm, Big Gym

Monday, March 6 – Read-a-Thon Returns! (see details on page 3)

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, March 7, 9 & 10 - Parent-Teacher Conferences (see booking links with times on page 3)

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

Thursday, March 16 – Band Jam 2023, 6:30-8:00 pm, Big Gym (see details on page 2)

Friday, March 17 – Mustang & High School Chamber Choirs Midwinter Concert, 6:00-7:00 pm, Big Gym

Enrollment Information Meetings continue

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2023-24 school year **continues through Thursday, March 9**. Two Enrollment Information Meetings remain, 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	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 us 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.

Simply the Best is back!

As you may know, Grand Traverse Academy was voted

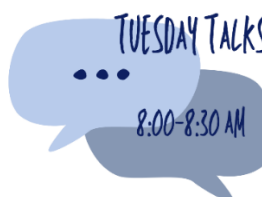


Best School in the Traverse City Record-Eagle 2022 Simply the Best of Northern Michigan contest.

What's more, Jocelyn Bohrer and Maria Drost tied as runners-up for Best Teacher! We thank all of our community members who made this honor possible, which provided great exposure and promotion for our school to the many thousands of northern Michigan residents who nominated, voted and viewed the presentation video. **Nominations for Simply the Best 2023 opened on February 15** and we appear once again in the Best School and Best Teacher subcategories, as well as Best Workplace. If you are so inclined, we invite you to visit <https://www.record-eagle.com/simplythebest> and cast your votes in support of Grand Traverse Academy. Best School and Best Teacher can be found under the Children, Family & Education category. Note that you may nominate an individual or organization once per day and nominations may be submitted until May 14. (If you submit at least 25 nominations, you might be one of three lucky winners to receive a \$100 Downtown Traverse City gift certificate!) Voting for the top three nominees in each subcategory will run from May 22-July 30 and winners will be announced in September.

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!

Save the date for Band Jam 2023!

We hope you'll plan on joining us on **Thursday, March**



BAND JAM 2023

16, when junior high and high school bands will perform Classic Rock from the 70's & 80's from 6:30-8:00 pm. A \$5 donation per person will be collected at the door. Proceeds from this popular event go toward both a scholarship fund to support the musical endeavors of our students and the purchase of additional equipment for our band program. If you, your business or your workplace are interested in becoming a Band Jam sponsor, contributors of \$25-1,000+ will be recognized both at the event and in the program. Checks may be dropped off or mailed to GTA at 1245 Hammond Road East, Traverse City 49686 with "GTA Band Jam" written on the memo line. Business donations may also be picked up by contacting Mr. Floering at floeringg@mygta.us.

GTA students honored by Career Tech

Congratulations to the following GTA students, who were named Students of the Quarter by Northwest Education Services Career Tech. Here is how their instructors supported their nominations:

Michael Bell, grade 11 – Collision Repair



"Michael excels at a high academic level. Works well with his classmates and instructors. When Michael is in the shop he shows a high level of skill and devotion to this career path. I look forward to seeing him develop his skills throughout the rest of the year."

Paige Bell, grade 11 – Early Education



"Paige is a very hard working student who has shown tremendous growth since the beginning of the school year. She is always willing to help her fellow peers, and does it with a friendly smile each time. We enjoy having Paige in class!"

Lillian Fitch, grade 11 - Agriscience



"Lily is a student who has excelled in Agriscience in the second quarter. She has demonstrated a high quality work ethic in all aspects of our program, especially with her work in our broiler project – Lily and her team were the 2022 Michigan FFA Broiler Contest State Winners (out of 170 teams

competing)! Lily brings a positive attitude to our program each day and has a positive outlook on life, her time in our program and her attitude to our program is contagious to others. Lily takes initiative and has done so with her work in her Supervised Agricultural Experience project (starting her own business – 'Succulents to Go'), she asks great questions and pushes herself to excel in all that she does. Lily is dependable and has volunteered on multiple weekends to assist with necessary chores for our broiler chickens and has gone above and beyond in her daily work in our program. Lily is very deserving of the recognition as our Agriscience Student of the Second Quarter!"

Chase Snell, grade 12 – Graphic Arts A



"Chase's peers reported: He is always kind, he ties his best to be involved with the class and he really tries with his art. Chase is hard working, helpful, and always has his work done. He is ahead on projects and works on independent client projects. He is a team leader with a good work ethic.

He is very respectful and calm with his approach. He is an amazing artist and fun to have in class."

Huffman Basketball Skills Camp returns

Once again, the Huffman Basketball Skills Camp will



take place at Grand Traverse Academy. The camps are open to boys and girls in grades 7-12 on **Monday, June 19-Friday, June 23**. Trevor Huffman, a native of Petoskey, is Kent State University's all-time leading scorer, a 13-year overseas player and head coach, NBA point guard

and an innovative skills trainer who holds camps around the state. For details and registration information, visit www.trevorhuffman.com.

Sign up now for parent-teacher conferences

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!

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. Watch for more details in next week's newsletter!

Read-a-thon returns!

As we mentioned last week, the GTA Family Council hosted a very successful Read-a-thon last year to encourage reading and help build classroom libraries through a fundraising component. K-6 students read for a total of 90,512 minutes and raised a whopping \$13,365! **They were so excited about our past success that they'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-thon promises to be a fun, exciting journey that **starts Monday March 6, 2023** and will get your children excited about reading. We know you have limited time but want the best education for your child. That's why we hope everyone will activate their reader's account as soon as possible. This is where you can record and view your reader's progress.

We encourage you to activate 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 won't 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

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

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 donate toward the purchase of pizza. Our apologies for the misprint in the first date in last week's newsletter. Parents who signed up have been contacted and a corrected link appears below.

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

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

Your contribution of any kind or amount is greatly appreciated!

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.

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!

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. **You may want to keep this meeting in mind when signing up for conferences.** Please refer to the letter sent to parents of current 6th graders in January for details about other junior high transition activities.

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: 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)