



Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Friday, March 24 – Family Council Movie Night, 6:30 pm, Big Gym (see details below)

Monday-Friday, March 27-31 – **NO SCHOOL**, Spring Break

Friday, April 7 – **NO SCHOOL**, Good Friday

Read-A-Thon concludes

The results are in and we are pleased to announce that our K-8 students read for an amazing **146,127 minutes** during our two-week Read-A-Thon (over 2,400



hours and 46 percent over the goal)! In addition, they raised **\$13,200** to support classroom libraries and activity funds. Congratulations to GTA students and their teachers, whose hard work and dedication to reading made our second annual Read-A-Thon a success. Mr. Thomas's and Mrs. Bohrer's elementary classes, and Ms. Koteskey's and Mrs. Callahan's junior high advisories each won a pizza party for capturing the top spots for minutes read or donations raised. A special shout out to the top 10 students in each category:

Student	Teacher	Minutes Read
Claire Whipple	Mroczkowski	2,597
Eli Willoughby	Callahan	2,415
Ember Lauzon	Mroczkowski	2,364
Leif Bostick	Drost	2,265
Jackson Hannon	Wilson	2,045
Cozette Wilcoxon	Koteskey	1,918
Jack Mesko	Thomas	1,637
Brycen Bowen	Wilson	1,629
Troy Mizell	Drost	1,595
Anabella Boardwine	Thomas	1,505
Ted Hassler	Stearman	1,503

Student	Teacher	Funds Raised
Ava Boogaard	Alejandro	\$640
Greyson Bagley	Bohrer	\$465
Amelia Addis-Ike	Cherup	\$405
Levi Hansen	Cherup	\$345
Harper Hammond	Myers	\$325
Aedan Schiffman	Johnson	\$250
Audrey Hartl	Wilson	\$250
Zoey Morgan	Gubbins	\$250
Weston Alexander	Myers	\$250
Lukas Gleason	Kipke	\$240

We thank all the students who participated, as **each and every minute read and dollar raised made a difference**. And we are so grateful for the friends, family members and community business leaders who came together to support our students' reading efforts with monetary donations and personal words of encouragement. Special thanks to the following local and GTA family-owned businesses for their contributions: **Doug Murdick's Fudge, Tom's Food Markets, Oleson's Food Stores, AMRA Energy, Subie Guys, Roy's General Store/Hentschel Hardware and Front Street Insurance**. Our teachers are grateful for the ability to add to their classroom libraries, which would not have been possible without such a wonderful effort by all in making our GTA Read-A-Thon a success! Last but not least, we extend a huge thanks to GTA parent Kristin Boogaard and the GTA Family Council for organizing and managing the event.

Family Movie Night tonight!

Kick off Spring Break tonight, **Friday, March 24**, with a



Family Movie Night, hosted by the GTA Family Council! "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" plays at **6:30 pm in the Big Gym**. Concessions will be available; please bring your own chairs or pillows and blankets. Family Council could still use a couple more

parent volunteers to help out. If you are available, please [sign up here](#). We hope to see you there!

Board seeking “directors-in-waiting”

The terms of two members of our board of directors



will expire this June. The board is seeking applicants who are willing to devote some time each month in helping our school

accomplish its mission of ensuring that all students are safe, loved, and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics. For more information or to apply, please contact Lori Hansen at hansenl@mygta.us.

NHS to hold “basic necessities” drive

Personal care items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, hairbrushes, deodorant, adhesive bandages, hand sanitizer, etc., will be collected by the GTA National Honor Society from **April 3-14**. Items will be donated to a local charity for distribution to area families in need. If you can help, please send your donations to school with your secondary student. Parents or elementary students may drop them off in either office. Your participation is appreciated.

Thank you!

We have received so many compliments on last week's band and choir concerts and thank all who came out to enjoy them and support our student musicians! If you missed Band Jam, recordings are available below:



[Band Jam 2023 Cadet and Concert Bands](#)

[Band Jam 2023 Jazz Band and Varsity Band & Symphony Winds](#)

We are pleased to announce that the Band Jam Fundraiser brought in \$1,952 in donations at the door; an additional \$1,480 in sponsorships was raised, thanks to the generosity of **We Love Nails, Subie Guys Inc., Kristy L. Bremmer, Dr. Robert & Sandra Foote, the Aristeo Family, the Courtright Family, Painted Lady Face Art, the Dean Family and Tara Dennis Design**. Proceeds will go toward scholarships to support our students' musical endeavors and to purchase additional equipment for our band program.

Med Club members participate in 5K

GTA Med Club members braved a 2° wind chill last



Saturday morning to run in the Leapin' Leprechaun 5K and did amazingly well.

Chase Snell (1st), **Petra Foote** (1st) and **Julia**

Jones (2nd) all received medals in their divisions.

Shown here are **Alleah Dix, Julia Jones, Max Foley, Sam Foley, Lilly Sarya** and **Mr. Drost**, secondary science teacher and club advisor. Congratulations to all!

GTA students excel at spelling bee

After eleven grueling rounds of spelling words like prophetically, erstwhile, laconic, and corpulent, GTA's own amazing **Bella Walden** took second place at the Regional Spelling Bee last Sunday morning at the City Opera House. She and **Sam Link** have been studying a formidable list of over 4,000 words since January, when they won first and second place, respectively, in the Grand Traverse Academy School Spelling Bee. The most difficult level of that list consists of words that are either not English in origin or are a mystery to most people: words like xyloglyphy, Strigolniki, and Llullaillaco. Please congratulate Bella and Sam for all of their hard work and for representing our school to the best of their abilities. We are so very proud!

Elementary students work with MUCC, DNR

Mr. Lazar's upper elementary students are growing



milkweeds and black-eyed Susans as part of a service learning project for On the Ground Junior, a

program created by Michigan United Conservation

Clubs (MUCC). The project is a collaboration with the DNR to help them complete tasks that would otherwise require more time and people. In May, they will head to the Betsie Grouse Enhancement Management Site to plant mast-producing shrubs and trees (which supply fruits to surrounding animals), construct a pollinator garden and learn about biodiversity. This, and five previous projects, will leave a lasting imprint on Michigan recreational land. To date, the projects have benefitted over 92 acres.

Elementary Spring Sing events scheduled

GTA students in grades K-4 will perform mini concerts in upcoming weeks to show what they have learned in their music classes. All performances will take place in the Small Gym. Dates and times are as follows:

Classes	Date	Time
Grades 1-2 Bohrer, Popp, Zak	Tuesday, April 18	6:00 pm
Grades 1-2 Gubbins, Gorton, Haines, Keenan	Tuesday, April 18	7:00 pm
Grades 3-4 Lazar, King, Drost	Thursday, April 20	6:00 pm
Grades 3-4 Cherup, Kipke, Olin, Wilson	Thursday, April 20	7:00 pm

GTA student art featured in exhibit, 5th grader wins award

The Crooked Tree Arts Center's annual Youth Art Exhibit features the works of students in the Greater Grand Traverse Area, including many from GTA. Congratulations to GTA 5th grader **Noah Kinney**, whose "Playground" mixed media sculpture won the Bynum Award at Sunday's awards ceremony! The Center is located at 322 Sixth Street in Traverse City.



The show will be open through April 15 during gallery hours and closed during Spring Break (March 27-31). For more information, visit www.crookedtree.org/tc.

NJHS completes community service project

Last Friday, a group of GTA National Junior Honor



Society members worked together on a service project for the Cherryland Humane Society. They

created and donated a total of six fleece blankets for cat and dog kennels and 10 cat toys. Thank you, students!

Test-out information for high school students

Under Michigan law, high school students may request the opportunity to "test out" of any high school class they select, with the exception of a course in which they are currently enrolled or have previously failed. The intent is to allow students to demonstrate knowledge and skills they already possess to enroll in higher level courses. If a student believes they have the extensive knowledge and background to demonstrate competency in a course, they may wish to consider this opportunity. Details and a test-out application are available [here](#). The application must be completed on or before April 21, 2023; courses requiring students to complete extended projects and/or research papers in addition to passing the test-out exam

Father-Daughter Dance planned

We invite GTA girls of all ages and their father, stepfather, uncle or grandfather to our biennial Father-Daughter Dance on **Friday, April 14 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Big Gym**. The cost is \$15 for father and daughter or \$20 for father and multiple daughters. A 4x6"



photo, a photo frame craft, music provided by a DJ and an ice cream sundae bar are included. Preregistration and payment are required and a registration form is attached to this newsletter. This is always a popular event, so don't delay!

Girls Take Action reminder

The Girls Take Action running club will start on Tuesday, **April 11, 2023**. Led by GTA teachers Ms. Kipke and Ms. Callahan, this program teaches girls in grades 3-8 to be self-confident and is based on the GTA character traits. Practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 5:00 pm. Please see the attached flier for more information. Forms are due back to school by April 7.



Parents urged to contact lawmakers about charter school funding equity

According to the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA), "The House School Aid appropriations subcommittee of lawmakers met recently in Lansing and MAPSA has confirmed that charter public schools will NOT be eligible for \$750 million in funding for future school infrastructure project needs." Find [details and information](#) about how you can let your opinions be known to Michigan's lawmakers at the link above. ALL public school students deserve access to all the resources the governor outlined in her "MI Kids Back on Track" program.

Simply the Best is back!

Nominations for the Record-Eagle's Simply the Best



2023 are underway.

Grand Traverse Academy is in the running for Best School and several of our teachers

have been nominated for Best Teacher. 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.

Student curling teams forming

The Traverse City Curling Club is challenging area junior high and high school students to form a curling team for the upcoming fall and winter seasons. It only takes four students to form a team and the equipment needed is minimal. Curling rocks and brooms are provided. The cost is \$120 per student for an eight-week league and includes instruction. For more information, visit www.tccurling.org. To schedule your group, contact junior program directors Dustine Murphy at (231) 493-5848 or dustinedc@hotmail.com.

Huffman Basketball Skills Camp returns

Huffman Basketball Skills Camp will return to Grand Traverse Academy on **Monday, June 19-Friday, June 23**. For details and registration information, see the attached flyer or visit www.trevorhuffman.com.

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: 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 Day – Thursday, May 25 (\$2 per person to wear jeans with a uniform top)

Father-Daughter Dance

Show her how special she really is! Fathers, uncles, grandfathers with a special girl are invited to spend a semi-formal evening on

Friday, April 14, 2023

6:30-8:30 pm

Grand Traverse Academy Gymnasium

\$15 for Father and One Daughter

\$20 for Father and Daughters

Includes one 4 x 6 photo and one photo frame craft per daughter

œ DJ

œ Ice cream sundae bar

œ Photographer

Please Return This Portion to the Elementary Office No Later Than April 10

*****pre-registration and payment are required*****

☐ Father and one daughter \$15 ☐ Father and daughters \$20

Names of Attendees _____



Girls Take Action is an after school program for 3rd-8th grade girls offered at Grand Traverse Academy. This program will focus on all the things that girls can be empowered to take action on in their lives. The framework of the program will be the character traits taught at GTA. Girls will be split into groups of 3rd-6th grade and 7th-8th grade.

The program will begin at Grand Traverse Academy on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 pm. We will meet in the classroom and will run in various locations around the school. The final run will be held on Friday, May 26th at 1:00 at GTA.

If you have any questions, please contact Coach Courtney Kipke at kipkec@mygta.us or Annie Callahan at callahana@mygta.us.

DUE: April 7, 2023

Keep Running!

Ms. Kipke and Ms. Callahan

Registration for Girls Take Action

Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____ Grade _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP: _____ Phone _____ T-SHIRT SIZE: Youth M L or Adult S M L XL 2XL

I, _____ give permission for _____
(parent/guardian) (daughter)

to participate in the Girls Take Action program. I understand this is a non-competitive running program designed for girls in 3rd-8th grades. Along with physical workouts, coaches provide focused and age-appropriate discussions on certain areas based on the GTA character traits in order to prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. The registration fee for Girls Take action is \$30 and includes a t-shirt and the final run.

☐ Enclosed is my \$30. Checks should be payable to Grand Traverse Academy. Please return the completed form, with payment, to the school office.