

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Saturday, May 6 – Junior-Senior Prom, Grand Traverse Yacht Club, 8:00-11:00 pm (see details below)

Father-Daughter Dance

Two hundred eighty guests attended this year's Father-



Daughter Dance and had a wonderful time! They enjoyed music, dancing, an ice cream sundae bar, a commemorative photo and a photo frame craft. A huge thanks to GTA's **Maria Dean**, who planned and coordinated the event; **Shawna Cole**, portrait photographer; and **Jonah Novak**, DJ, as well as the following student, staff and parent volunteers: **Melissa Haines, Kim Wilson, Michelle Floering, Stephanie Patrzik, Shelley Alejandro, Dawn Hoffman, Jean Lazar, Jessica and Liam Collings, Arabella Dent, Cassidy Weber, Devan Gorton, Pearl Mimnaugh, Nathaniel Vang, and Michelle, Nathan, Noah and Weston Kinney**. If you're new to GTA, the Father-Daughter Dance takes place on odd numbered years and a Mother-Son event happens on even years – watch for details and a date next school year!

NHS donates to Red Cross

Congratulations to GTA senior and National Honor Society member, **Bethaney Beaver**, for coordinating a successful "basic necessities" drive. Our families generously contributed 350 items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, soap, hand sanitizer,

deodorant and shampoo to the cause. Bethaney



contacted the local American Red Cross chapter, which will use the donations to benefit their

Service to the Armed Forces program. This project was a great way for all of us to support our troops and their families with many needed items. Thank you, Bethaney and the NHS!

Golf clinic planned for grades 3-8

GTA students in grades 3-8 are invited to join spring golf clinics at The Crown golf course at 2430 West Crown Drive in Traverse City (off West Silver Lake Road). Dates are **Saturdays, April 29, May 6 and May 13**, with elementary students meeting from 3:00-4:00 pm and junior high following from 4:00-5:00. A registration form is attached and is due by Thursday, April 27.

Students of the Month chosen

Congratulations to our most recent latest Students of the Month:

Elementary - Responsibility



Zoey Haberlein, kindergarten, is the daughter of Yvette & David Haberlein. "Zoey is a very responsible student. She knows all instructions given and is usually the student I tell others to ask if they don't know the directions. She has

improved in keeping her locker tidy and never has to be asked twice to come back and organize it."

– Mr. Terrill



Colton Bannon, grade 2, is the son of Andrew & Danielle Bannon. “Colton shows such responsibility in our classroom. He comes to school prepared and ready to learn, and keeps his materials in order. Ms. Gorton and I can trust him to run

errands and assist friends. If there is an issue at recess, he is willing to stop what he’s doing to help and makes sure that friends’ needs are met. Colton has grown so much this year; I am proud of how he demonstrates responsibility!” – *Mrs. Keenan*



Abigail Kucharski, grade 3, is the daughter of Anna & Matthew Kucharski. “Abbey is a role model for responsibility. In fact, her peers nominated her for this award! She comes to school prepared and quickly gets her math facts set up before

school starts. She takes home all of her paperwork, keeps her parents informed about class events and keeps her area and bin clean and organized. She manages her time wisely and gets her work finished on time. Once finished, she finds a responsible activity to do.” – *Mrs. Wilson*



Branton Wells, grade 6, is the son of Crystal and Taylor Smith. “Branton is consistently on task and is prepared for each subject. He quietly leads by example, always getting his materials ready before each period of the day, cleaning his area and putting things

away neatly when finished. He lines up quietly and respects the space of others. I appreciate how he lets his actions speak in showing his ability to be a responsible leader.” – *Mr. Lazar*

Secondary - Caring



Samuel Link, grade 7, is the son of Eric & Stephanie Link. He is interested in animation, medicine and acting, and aspires to have great academic and athletic achievements. His career interests include becoming a scientist, doctor or an expert in

general technology.



Bella Waldon, grade 8, is the daughter of Melissa & Michael Waldon. She participates in NHS, track & field and powerlifting, and played basketball. Bella volunteers through NHS and her church and will volunteer at a summer camp for the

disabled in June and July. She enjoys skateboarding, art, running, cooking, longboarding, photography, writing reading, collecting antiques and clocks, biking and more! Bella is interested in travel and hopes to attend college on a scholarship. She is undecided on a career choice as yet but wants to do something that benefits others as well as herself. One day, she hopes to purchase her own home and provide for her parents and family as well.



Kaden Klooster, grade 9, is the son of Brittani & Daron Klooster. He plays on the basketball and baseball teams at school and helps with audio and video at his church. Kaden loves to make music and play games on his computer and occasionally create

videos in his free time. He hopes to keep his GPA close to a 3.9 and improve his basketball, baseball and trumpet skills. This summer, Kaden wants to start driving and find a job. After high school, he wants to attend the University of Michigan.



Jocelyn Wells, grade 9, is the daughter of Abraham Wells and Jill Wells. She enjoys playing guitar and takes private lessons every week. Jocelyn loves to paint, explore nature and bike. She looks forward to learning to drive and getting a job

soon. Jocelyn also has aspirations of becoming a better cook and creating her “masterpiece” (or pieces)!

School absences or late arrivals

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

Elementary 995-0665 / Secondary 932-6038



Summer tutors available

Each summer, some of our teachers are available to tutor students who may need a little extra help in a subject or two or don't want to lose ground over the summer. Fees and locations are to be arranged between parents and teachers. Be sure to watch this space, as more may be added as the end of the school year approaches.

Elise Ballinger – ballingere@mygta.us
 Certified Teacher/GTA Reading Interventionist
 Reading Tutoring for Grades K-4

Prom tickets on sale

GTA's 2023 prom, Nautical Night, is planned for



**Saturday, May 6,
 from 8:00-11:00 pm
 at the Grand Traverse
 Yacht Club.** Juniors
 and seniors may
 attend and may take a

high school student as a date. If the guest is from another school, a High School Event Visitor's Application (available in the Secondary Office) must be completed and turned in to Mrs. VanHouzen, dean of students, no later than Wednesday, May 3. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a variety of desserts and beverages. Students can purchase their tickets now in the Secondary Office.

GTA students visit Paris/London

Six GTA students joined Mrs. VanHouzen and chaperone



Mr. Mroczkowski on a trip to Paris, France and London, England over Spring Break through EF Tours. She has another group trip in the works for Spring Break 2025 –



this time to Vietnam. Current 8th, 9th and 10th graders are

invited to join her. An informational meeting is planned for **Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room**. For additional information and to register for the meeting, use the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3mcXRVP>.

Career Tech honors GTA students

Congratulations to **Kathryn Hanes** and **Zack Worm**, who



were recently selected as Students of the Quarter at Northwest Education Services Career Tech. **Kathryn**, grade 12, is in the Graphic Arts A program. Her program teachers said, "Katie is sharp and professional with all of her tasks. She is extremely helpful with other students and her teacher. She has leadership traits and works well on a team. She is kind, generous and understanding, which makes her very easy to work with when giving feedback." **Zack**, grade 11, is in the Collision Repair program. His program teacher said, "Zack excels at a high



academic level and works well with his classmates and instructors. When Zack 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."

Preschool/Elementary Field Day coming!

Our Elementary Physical Education department is busy



planning 2023 Field Day, scheduled for **June 6 and 7**. This fun outdoor event is one that our students look forward to as a way to cap off the school year! Attached to this newsletter a schedule by grade, as well as

information about donation opportunities and t-shirt orders. Please note that the schedule has been updated for 1st/2nd and 5th/6th graders, so if you have already received a copy from your child's teacher, you'll want to refer to this one instead. Field Day would not be possible without the generosity of our parents. If you have time to spare on either of these days, volunteers are needed. In addition, donations of supplies are greatly appreciated. Please contact Mrs. Kline at klinej@mygta.us or Mr. Dix at dixd@mygta.us with questions or to volunteer.

GTA offers online reporting tool

We are pleased to announce that Grand Traverse Academy has joined forces with STOPit Solutions to offer an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse and other at-risk behaviors and actions before they escalate. STOPit provides students and parents access to the STOPit mobile app to make anonymous reports designed to alert school administrators to issues of concern. Privacy of student data is a priority. We encourage all parents to read the attached flyer, view the STOPit training video and download the app with your family today. Questions may be directed to [Mrs. VanHouzen](#), [Mrs. Patrzik](#) or [Mrs. Floering](#).

Credit Recovery Summer School available

High school students have the opportunity to recover credit for classes in which they earned less than a "C" for a final grade. Each of two, two-week sessions allow for recovery of one-half credit, for a total of one credit if both sessions are taken. Classes meet Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am-12:00 pm. The cost is \$175 per two-week session (see session dates on the form below). A completed [registration form](#), along with a \$100 deposit, is due by June 10, with the balance due on the first day of the summer school session.

Nominations accepted daily through May 14 for Simply the Best!

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: You may nominate an individual or organization once per day 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.

Discount available on GTA spirit wear

Spring sports are underway and school spirit is in the



air! If you need to update your spirit wear wardrobe, now is the time. The [Sideline Spirit Wear Store](#) on the GTA website is offering 15 percent off on \$100 purchases through April 30! Use code

EXTRA15 to earn your discount.

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 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)

Athlete Name: _____ Grade: 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th

Co-Ed Golf Registration Form



Philosophy: Elementary sports are intended to provide a formative, competitive, and instructional framework for athletics. All participants will learn the fundamentals of the sport and be given the opportunity to develop strong and disciplined athletic minds and bodies.

Format: This sport will be structured as instructional skill sessions. Each session will focus on the development of a different aspect of the game.

Eligible Grade Levels: All enrolled male and female GTA 3-6th grade students may participate.

Coaching Staff: Golf Pro & GTA Parent Bruce Anderson with his HS Golf Team

Schedules/Times/Deadlines: Sessions will take place on **Saturday Apr 29, May 6, and May 13 3:00-4:00 for 3rd -6th grade and 4:00-5:00pm for JH.** . In the case of inclement weather, sessions will be canceled. Make sure to dress warmly on session dates.

Equipment Needed: All necessary equipment will be provided, no personal equipment is needed

Location: Sessions will take place at The Crown, 2430 W Crown Dr, Traverse City, MI 49685

Registration Deadline: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Athletic Fees: \$35

Athlete Acknowledgement: I understand that it is important to have good sportsmanship & be a positive person in my community. I also understand that being an athlete will give me the chance to be a role model for other people. I know that competition builds character & will help shape me into who I will be after school. Integrity, reflection, & respect for athletics are all pieces of good sportsmanship that I hope to achieve. I will commit to the sport season, respect the coaches, athletes, equipment and have a positive attitude each and every time I represent my school. I will listen, work hard, and have fun while learning my sport.

Athlete Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Remind Service/Emergency Contact: the primary method the Athletic Department uses to communicate with athletes and families is via the Remind text service. Please put any numbers that you would like to receive season updates.

Parent Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Allergies/Other Notes: _____

Medical Authorization & Release: I hereby hold Grand Traverse Academy, its employees and agents harmless for injuries sustained as a result of participation in the sports program. I agree to and assume financial responsibility for medical treatment as a result of any such injury. By signing, you hereby grant to the child's team coach/administration the responsibility for the care of the child if a parent/guardian is unavailable. This involves the required consent and authorizations for the delivery of medical care, diagnosis, and treatment if necessary, on behalf of my minor child named above. In making any such decisions, the persons hereby authorized to make the decisions may rely on the advice of available medical advisors, which may include physicians, nurses, EMT's, or other apparently qualified persons. In connection with such decisions, I hereby release the school, and their representatives, from any liability for the results of such treatment and care. It is my understanding that the school will use its best efforts to promptly contact one of us in the event medical treatment or care is considered necessary or appropriate.

Concussion Awareness Educational Material Acknowledgement: I acknowledge, in accordance with Michigan's Sports Concussion Laws (Public Acts 342 and 343 of 2012) that I have received the Concussion Fact Sheet for Parent and/or the Concussion Fact sheet for Students (as applicable) provided by the Grand Traverse Academy Athletic Department. I am aware of the signs of concussions and proper reporting procedures. I understand that state law requires the immediate removal of a student athlete from physical participation if a concussion is suspected. I further understand that state law requires that a student athlete suspected of a concussion not return to physical activity until s/he receives written clearance from an appropriate health professional.

Photo Release: Grand Traverse Academy likes to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff. Throughout the sports season, the Athletic Department may take photographs of athletes during practice and competition to celebrate their hard work. These photographs may appear in various school materials and platforms and will be used in a celebratory nature. If you do not wish for your student's photograph to be released by GTA, please promptly submit a completed copy of the GTA opt-out form to the Main Office pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC 1232g, 34 part 99, and Michigan's Student Privacy Law, MCL 380.1136.

Inherent Risks & Dangers. I fully understand that there are risks inherent in athletic training, practices, competitions and events (collectively, "athletic related activities") and ground transportation that include risks and dangers of serious bodily injury and property damage, including but not limited to, permanent disability, paralysis and even death ("risks"). These risks may be caused by the Athlete's own actions or inactions, the actions or in actions of others participating in the athletic related activities, and/or by the conditions in which the athletic related activities take place.

Assumption Of Risk. I freely and voluntarily assume any and all risks arising out of, or relating to, the athlete's participation in the athletic related activities. I understand that it is my responsibility to evaluate carefully the risks inherent in the athletic related activities and, in signing this form, represent that I have taken such steps as I deem necessary and appropriate to obtain information and clarification on any questions or concerns. I represent and warrant that there are no physical or other health related problems that would render the Athlete's participation in the athletic related activities dangerous or harmful to others or the athlete. I understand that GTA does not provide medical, health, or other insurance for students participating in athletic related activities and that it is my responsibility to maintain such insurance as I deem necessary or appropriate. Knowing the risks associated with the athletic related activities, and with sufficient knowledge of the athlete's physical condition and limitation(s), if any, I voluntarily assume all responsibility and risk of loss, damage, illness and/or injury to the participating athlete or property in any way associated with the student's participation in the athletic related activities.

Release, Waiver, Covenant Not To Sue. In consideration of the student being allowed to participate in the athletic related activities, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, I waive, release and forever discharge and agree not to sue, and to indemnify and hold harmless, Grand Traverse Academy, its Board Of Directors, each director, its officers, administrators, employees, agents, contracted service providers, volunteers, representatives, and assigns their successors, heirs or estates ("releases") from and against any and all financial obligations, liabilities, claims, demands and causes of action of any kind, on account of any loss, damage, illness or injury to person or property alleged to be caused, in whole or in part, by the releases, in any way arising out of, or relating to, the student's participation in the athletic related activities, whether due to negligence or other action or inaction of the releases, excluding claims for intentional misconduct or gross negligence. No part of this consent form shall be deemed or constructed as a relinquishment or waiver of the immunity from Tort Liability provided in section 7 of ACT NO 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1964, as amended, being sections 691.1407 ET SEQ of the Michigan Compiled Laws. If despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk and indemnity, I or anyone acting on my behalf or on behalf of the now-minor participating athlete, makes a claim against any of the releases, I will indemnify, save, and hold harmless each of the releases from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damages, or costs of any kind as my incur as a result of any such claim.

By printing and signing your name below, you agree as a parent to all athletic policies outlined here.

Parent #1: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent #2: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



GTA Field Day!



Dear Parent(s) or Guardian,

We have our dates for Field Day down! Every year, the students look forward to this day. Below is the scheduled event by grade level. We have attached the Donation and T-shirt form.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to volunteer for Field Day as well!

<p>Who: Preschool & Kindergarten</p> <p>Where: GTA North Field</p> <p>When: Tuesday, June 6</p> <p>9:30-11:30am</p>	<p>Who: 1st/2nd Grade</p> <p>Where: GTA North Field</p> <p>When: Wednesday, June 7</p> <p>1:00 – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Who: 3rd/4th Grade</p> <p>Where: GTA North Field</p> <p>When: Wednesday, June 7</p> <p>9:30 - 11:30 am</p>	<p>Who: 5th/6th Grade</p> <p>Where: GTA North Field</p> <p>When: Tuesday, June 6</p> <p>1:00-3:00pm</p>
---	--	---	---

Donation Form

Supplies &/or Donations needed: Please indicate how many on the blank space you plan to donate!
(Items Due May 31)

_____ 15 Burlap Sacks _____ 100 Yellow Car Sponges _____ 1,000 Ice pops _____ 1,000 Water Balloons
 _____ 10 5 gallon buckets, _____ 8 Junior Footballs _____ 3 Kiddie Pools _____ 20 18" PVC Traffic Cones
 \$_____ Monetary Donation towards extra T-shirts or Supplies

T-Shirt Order Form (Due May 10)

_____ (Qty.) T-shirt size for my student

Cost: **\$9.00 each** (Please circle shirt size.) If writing a check please make payable to: GTA

YS YM YL YXL AS AM AL AXL A2XL (\$2 more)



Student Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Thank you again for your donations and support. We are looking forward to giving these kids all the fun they deserve! Mr. Dix & Mrs. Kline

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to announce that our school has enrolled with STOPit, by STOPit Solutions

STOPit is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features.

Specifically, the program educates students to:

- Recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously
- Report it anonymously through STOPit App/Web or 24/7 Incident Response Center
- Submit photo or video evidence (App/Web Only)
- Alert designated administrators to issues and risks early, before they escalate

No personal information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a requester voluntarily includes it within the content of a request or message.

Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the [Student Privacy Pledge](#), spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association. You may review STOPit's [Privacy Policy](#) for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

Students have the power to help put an end to harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or are otherwise in need of assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder, school communities both online and off.

We encourage you to download the STOPit app and search for your students' school using the directory. You can privately ask for help for your student, family, others you care about, or even acquaintances who appear to need help. For a video on how to use STOPit, go to: [Student Training Video](#).

Together, we can make sure everyone in our community gets what they need to thrive. Thank you!

Mindy VanHouzen

Dean of Students

