

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Wednesday, May 24 – Seniors: *Last Day at Career Tech*

Thursday, May 25 – *GTA Cares Fill the Pantry Jeans Day*

Thursday, May 25 – Seniors: *Last (Half) Day, Lunch and Stories*

Thursday, May 25 – *Board of Directors Meeting/Budget Hearing, 6:00 pm, Aqua 5*

Monday, May 29 – **NO SCHOOL**, Memorial Day

New preschool and elementary start/dismissal times for 2023-24

In January of this year we surveyed parents regarding a proposed change in hours for elementary students to better align with the start and dismissal times for our secondary students. So many of our preschool and elementary students are already at school by 8:00 am due to parents' work schedules or having older siblings at GTA. Our goal was to offer an earlier start time as a convenience for our families. Although we realize that a change may not be seen as positive for everyone, the overwhelming majority of respondents were in favor of coordinated hours, with an earlier start time for preschool and elementary. When we return to school in the fall, start and dismissal times will be as follows:

	Monday-Thursday	Friday
Preschool (Mornings)	8:15 am-12:00 pm	8:15-11:45 am
Preschool (Full Days)	8:15 am-3:15 pm	8:15-11:45 am
Grades K-6	8:15 am-3:35 pm	8:15 am-12:00 pm
Grades 7-8	8:05 am-3:30 pm	8:05 am-12:10 pm
Grades 9-12	8:05 am-3:25 pm	8:05 am-12:10 pm

As a reminder, Quality Care before-school care is available for students in kindergarten through grade 6 and after-school care is open to preschool-grade 6 to accommodate parents' varied schedules. In addition,

many parents choose to share carpool duties with those who live in the same area. You may correspond with verified GTA families through the [Grand Traverse Academy Carpool & Uniform Exchange](#). We look forward to welcoming our preschool and elementary students a bit earlier this fall!

GTA students receive honors

Hats off to GTA seniors **Isaac Deneau** and **Andrew**



Pavwoski, who were recognized last week at the Northwest Education Services Career Tech Engineering Academy Honors Ceremony. We're so

proud of their accomplishment!

Elementary spirit wear shirts available

Mr. Thomas's upper elementary class is selling tie-dye t-shirts as a class fundraiser. The cost is \$15 per shirt and sizes range from youth small to adult medium. There are just 10 available in each size, so don't delay! Details are attached to this newsletter.

Elementary Students of the Month announced

Congratulations to the following elementary students, who were named Students of the Month for demonstrating the character trait of Kindness. Following is how their teachers described them:

Rosalind Hubbell, Kindergarten. If you looked up "kindness" in the dictionary, it would probably say "kindness." However, Rosie would definitely be the first example! She always uses polite language with classmates and adults. Whenever she has a problem with someone she will talk to them about it, rather than tell the teacher. She consistently goes out of her way to make sad friends feel better. I am so



grateful to have Rosie as a role model for her peers. Her kindness is contagious, and we all love her for it. Way to shine Rosie! – *Mr. Haberlein*

Captain Jacobs, Grade 1. Captain goes out of his way to



be kind to the students and adults around him. He is always looking for ways to help out friends in need or cheer someone up! Captain will often come in and ask me or Ms. Gorton, "Is there anything I can do to help you today?" He loves to help others and has a kind and caring heart. Captain uses polite language and always knows how to make his friends smile. His kindness is noticed and appreciated by all of his teachers and friends. I am so glad Captain is a part of our class! – *Mrs. Keenan*

Isabella Rapmund, Grade 4. When I think of kindness, I



think of Isabella Rapmund! Bella is always thinking of others. Every day I am impressed with how she goes out of her way to make others feel special – little notes, gifts, and kind words. She is the FIRST one to help a classmate – and me! As soon as Bella notices a friend struggling, she figures out what he or she needs, then rushes to the rescue. At clean up, she often asks if there is anything else that needs to be done. Bella truly has a heart of gold. She never looks for praise or a reward; she genuinely wants to make the world a better place...and she does! Her smile is bright and cheerful, and she spreads it to all of those around her. – *Mrs. Drost*

Phoenix Trudeau, Grade 5. Phoenix is absolutely one of



the kindest kids I have ever met. He is warm and welcoming to everyone and polite in his speech. Phoenix is always willing to help out his peers and teachers when he can and enjoys doing group projects/work because he "loves to see everyone working together"! He is always smiling and makes friends easily. Phoenix does not let challenges bring him down or distract him from doing what is right and treating people with great respect. His character is terrific and kindness is his middle name! – *Mr. Alejandro*

2024 Washington, DC trip in the works

GTA 8th graders (and their parents) who are interested in touring our nation's capital and the Civil War battlefields in the spring of 2024 are invited [to follow this link](#) to view the full itinerary. This trip is offered to the 8th grade class each year and our goal is to love to have as many students as possible take advantage of the opportunity! Questions may be directed to Mrs. VanHouzen at vanhouzenm@mygta.us.

GTA student receives STEM award

Congratulations to **Eli Willoughby**, grade 8, for receiving



a K-8 STEM Award from Northwest Education Services for his outstanding achievement. He was one of 12 students honored last night at the STEM Symposium at the Career Tech building. Junior high science teacher Mrs. Callahan nominated Eli "for his incredible work ethic and dedication to the NASA TechRise Challenge in her Aerospace Exploration elective, putting in hours of extra work at home troubleshooting and fixing coding problems. In addition, he spent countless hours working on his team's robot during the 2022-23 VEX Robotics season."

Important immunization reminder for incoming kindergarteners and 7th graders

We are so looking forward to welcoming our incoming kindergarten students and those who will be making the move from elementary to junior high! Certain immunizations are required for entry into school, while the meningococcal conjugate vaccine and a DTaP booster are given at ages 11-12. Please check with your health care provider to be sure that immunizations are up to date. If you have opted against any of the required vaccines, please contact the health department to receive a current, certified State of Michigan waiver form, or your health care provider for a medical contraindication form. We ask that either a copy of the appropriate form or current immunization record be provided to us by the end of July.

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.

Host home needed for foreign exchange student

Guy, a high school student from Spain, is excited for the opportunity to participate in foreign exchange program but needs a host home. He is active, sociable and family oriented and can't wait to experience school spirit! He enjoys cycling, going to the gym and hiking with his scouting group. Once in the US, he is interested in participating on a swim team and trying American football. He is close to his younger brother, so he hopes to have a host sibling during his stay. Guy is conscientious about his grades, is interested in medicine as a career and speaks four languages. For more information, please contact Mrs. VanHouzen at vanhouzenm@mygta.us. Parents of both elementary and secondary students are welcome to host.



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.



Ben Whipple - bwhips@gmail.com
 GTA School Wide Guest Teacher
 Math (except calculus) for Grades 5-12
 English Language Arts for Grades 7-12

Mason Thomas – thomasm@mygta.us
 GTA Upper Elementary Teacher
 Math & Reading Tutoring for Grades K-6

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

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! Attached is information about donation opportunities.

Grades	Date	Time
Preschool & Kindergarten	Tuesday, June 6	9:30-11:30 am
Grades 1 & 2	Wednesday, June 7	1:00-3:00 pm
Grades 3 & 4	Wednesday, June 7	9:30-11:30 am
Grades 5 & 6	Tuesday, June 6	1:00-3:00 pm

If you have time to spare on either of these days, a few volunteers are still needed (especially for Grades 5 & 6 on June 6 at 12:45 pm). Follow [this link](#) to choose a day and time to volunteer at Field Day (click on the tabs at the bottom of the form to choose a grade level). Please contact [Mrs. Kline](#) or [Mr. Dix](#) with any questions.

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

Coffee's on!

Mr. Thomas' Upper Elementary class has been selling coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities, field trips and resources. The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in Regular and Decaffeinated, Whole Bean and Ground. **Orders are due on Friday, June 2** 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!

Community information session offered for college savings programs

The Michigan Education Trust (MET) and the Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP), through the State of Michigan's Department of Treasury, are bringing back Community Information and Enrollment Sessions for Michigan's 529 college savings programs. A 529 plan

enables you to save money for a beneficiary to pay for education expenses. Funds can be withdrawn tax-free and may offer additional state and federal tax benefits. The first session in the Traverse City area will be held at the **Traverse Area District Library, 610 Woodmere Avenue on May 24 from 3:00-7:00 pm.** For more information, see the attached flyer.

STEM activities available for area youth

Newton's Road, a local nonprofit organization, offers a multitude of resources for students interested in science, technology, engineering and math. Find them [here](#) to learn about Stem experiences, careers and more, or check out their [events calendar](#) for activities in the Traverse City area that might appeal to your children.



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: May 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)

Grand Traverse Academy

Big T's Tie-Dye T-Shirts

You can't get tie-dye spirit wear from a regular store for \$15, but at Mr. Thomas' class shop, you can! With colors from light blue, to electric blue, navy blue, gray and black, these shirts will make great spirit wear for fun Fridays!

*These shirts range from Youth S to Adult M. **Note:** Wash alone or with other tie-dye in cold water for first wash (normal wash thereafter).*

Shirts are located at Orange 4, Mr. Thomas' Classroom.

Fridays only, 8-8:30 am.





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>
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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



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, June 2nd 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 _____

Community Enrollment Session



May 24
3:00-7:00
**Traverse Area
District Library**
610 Woodmere Ave.
Traverse City



Save for your loved one's future education.

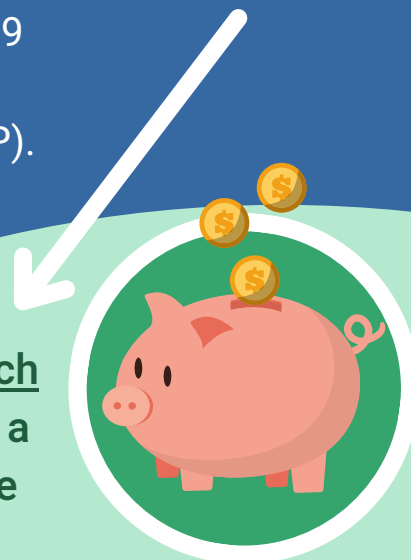
MET and MESP make saving for college easier!

Drop-in during this event to learn more about Michigan's 529 college savings programs, the Michigan Education Trust (MET) and the Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP). Staff will also be available to assist with new enrollments.

MET and MESP

- ✓ Flexible
- ✓ Transferable
- ✓ Refundable
- ✓ Tax Advantages

Get a \$150 match
when you open a
new MET at the
event!



*Limit one match per Beneficiary, lifetime. See website for rules.

Contact Us

1-800-638-4543

www.SaveWithMI529.com

TreasMET@Michigan.gov