

## Dates to remember

▶ **2022-23 Open Enrollment Period Ends Thursday, March 10**

▶ **Monday, February 21** – Enrollment Information Meeting, 6:00 pm, Aqua 5

▶ **Thursday & Friday, February 24/25 and March 3/4** – Parent-Teacher Conferences and Used Uniform Sales (see below)

▶ **Week of February 28** – Scholastic Book Fair

## Masking requirements lifted

At their regular meeting on Thursday night, the GTA Board of Directors evaluated the COVID Measures for the 2021-22 school year. The result is that GTA has lifted all masking requirements for the remainder of the school year, effective today, Friday, February 18. Masks will be available for any individual who would like one, however. Follow [this link](#) for the full updated COVID-19 Measures for 2021-22, found at the top of the page.

## Parent-teacher conferences begin next week

Second semester parent-teacher conferences are



planned for **February 24 & 25** and **March 3 & 4** for both Elementary and Secondary students. If you haven't already

scheduled yours, use the following links to SchoolBookings, our online conference manager:

### Elementary

<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code/x2f7x>

(Call 995-0665 with questions)

### Secondary

<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code/54bet>

(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!

## Parenting with Choice Theory returns

If you're new to Grand Traverse Academy, have heard about Dr. William Glasser's Choice Theory and are curious to learn more – or you're a veteran and could use a refresher – Parenting with Choice Theory is for you! The free weekly sessions will take place here at school on **Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm, starting March 3. The first session will take place in the Green 1 classroom, with subsequent sessions in the Intention Room (the first room on the right when entering the Elementary corridor).** This is a course that will be well worth your while!

## 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**

## Family Council presents Read-A-Thon

SAVE THE DATE! March is National Reading Month and the GTA Family Council is excited to announce a Read-A-Thon fundraiser for grades K-6. Our Read-A-Thon is a program that brings students together with



Read·A·Thon

family and friends to encourage reading and build literacy skills. The Read-A-Thon promises to be a fun, exciting journey for all participants as they begin a personal reading adventure that challenges each reader to complete 10 reading sessions over our two-week event. **Our Read-A-Thon will run from March 7-18.**

Approximately one week before we start our first reading session we will send home paperwork with your reader explaining how you will activate their personal Read-A-Thon page. We understand that, as parents, you have high expectations for the quality of your child's education but also have limited time. That's why we chose to hold a Read-A-Thon. You will find this to be the easiest fundraiser possible. By simply activating your reader's personal page and using the promotional tools found there, friends and family anywhere in the world can show their support for your reader by making a donation to our Read-Thon. Your involvement in the Read-A-Thon will help your child develop a lasting love of reading.

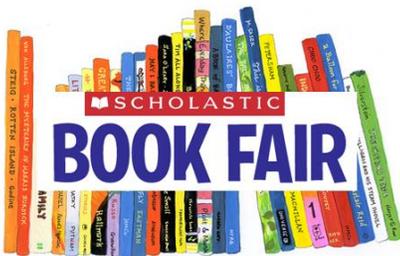
**We hope each one of you will activate your child's personal page the day your child brings home their paperwork to help us reach our goals of \$4,000 raised and 80,000 minutes read! The money raised will be used to give each K-6 teacher \$100 toward their classroom library. Classes with the most reading minutes AND money raised will each get a pizza party! What's more, participants have a chance to win a Disney theme park trip for four in a nationwide Read-A-Thon drawing.**

Stay tuned for more information!

P.S. If you own a business and would like to support GTA's Read-A-Thon (or perhaps your employer would), please see the information specifically for business supporters attached to this newsletter.

## Scholastic Book Fair planned

We're excited to announce a Scholastic Book Fair here at school from **February 28-March 4. Hours are 8:00 am-4:15 pm Monday-Wednesday, 8:00 am-6:45 pm Thursday and**



**8:00 am-1:15 pm on Friday.** For your convenience, we are offering an "eWallet" payment system, to allow for digital cashless payments for your child's books! To get started, visit our [eWallet page](#) on the Scholastic website right away, so funds will be available as soon as the book fair begins. Remember that the book fair benefits your children by encouraging reading and also benefits our school with the purchase of every book.

## GTA Family Council news

**Book fair volunteers needed.** If you have some time to spare, we could use your help at our upcoming book fair. Simply go to the [sign-up sheet here](#) and choose your available date(s) and time(s). It's fun and a great way to get to know your fellow GTA parents!

**Donations needed for staff dinners during evening conferences.** Family Council will provide dinner for staff during our upcoming parent-teacher conferences. If you can contribute toward pizza or donate chips, soft drinks, ice, cookies or tableware, or help with set-up or clean-up, please sign up at the following links for [February 24](#) or [March 3](#). Your help will be greatly appreciated by our GTA staff who will be at school for 12+ hours on the two days with evening conferences.

**Used uniform sale planned.** The GTA Family Council will hold a used uniform sale during our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences, **February 24 & 25 and March 3 & 4**. If you have clean, gently used GTA uniform pieces you'd like to donate, they may be dropped off in either office for delivery to Mrs. VanHouzen. Help is needed with setup and sales; [sign up here](#) for either opportunity. Proceeds from the sale will support Family Council activities.

**Fund raising opportunity continues.** Car wash coupons are a convenient way to keep your car clean during these slushy winter months. Purchase a Mirror Image Car Wash & Detailing single basic wash coupon for \$7 or a book of five for \$35. Full-service interior & exterior washes are available for \$25 each or \$125 for a book of five. Profits will support the GTA Family Council's efforts throughout the school year. Follow this link to purchase: [GTA FC CAR WASH](#) or contact Kristin Boogaard at (616) 328-4646 or [kristinboogaard@gmail.com](mailto:kristinboogaard@gmail.com).

👉 **Reminder:** Be sure to join the Facebook group, **GTA Family Council**, to stay connected and keep up to date with all the amazing service opportunities.

## Elementary teacher requests for 2022-23

If you would like to request a specific teacher for your child(ren) for the next school year, please complete [this form](#) (one per child) **by Friday, April 22**. Detailed instructions are included; if you have questions, please call the Elementary Office at (231) 995- 0665.

## GTA board opportunity

Grand Traverse Academy's mission is for all students to be safe, loved and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics. If you have an interest in helping our school to continue to achieve that mission,

have 2-5 hours per month to devote to guiding our school, are a team player and are willing to serve as an ambassador for GTA in the community, you just might be a great candidate for Grand Traverse Academy's board of directors. The board is currently accepting applications for one member to replace one whose term will expire this year. The term will begin at the start of the 2022-23 school year. For more information or to apply, please contact board trustee Katherine McCulley at [mcculleyk@mygta.us](mailto:mcculleyk@mygta.us).

## Save the date for Band Jam 2022!

We hope you'll plan on joining us on **Thursday, March 10**, when junior high and high school bands will perform Classic Rock from the 70's & 80's – **junior high at 6:30 pm and high school at 7:30**. 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](mailto:floeringg@mygta.us).

## Winter soccer update

For the remaining sessions of our Saturday soccer drop-in sessions, all students will be combined into one group, from 12:30-2:00 pm. Students do not need to attend all sessions in order to participate. Please check the [soccer calendar](#) for the full schedule and **note that tomorrow's session (February 19 session has been cancelled** due to the Frost Fest dance being held in the gym that night.



## Mighty Mustangs Preschool enrolling now

Grand Traverse Academy's Mighty Mustangs 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 Mighty Mustangs [Preschool webpage](#). And feel free to share this information with other parents of preschool-aged children!

## Enrollment Information Meetings continue

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2022-23 school year **continues through Thursday, March 10**. Several Enrollment Information Meetings are planned, as shown below. Each includes a brief presentation, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities.

Enrollment Information Meetings		
Day	Date	Time
Monday	February 21	6:00 pm
Tuesday	March 1	9:30 am
Thursday	March 3	6:00 pm
Monday	March 7	9:30 am
Wednesday	March 9	6:00 pm

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](mailto:enrollment@mygta.us) to reserve their spot at one of these meetings. Individual tours with a school leader are also available by appointment.

## Summer job opportunity

Is your high school son or daughter looking for a summer job? A cherry receiving station on the Old Mission Peninsula is looking for team members for a wide range of positions, including computer input, fruit weighing and grading, and outdoor positions such as lift truck drivers and pad maintenance. No experience is necessary, as they will



train! The station is open seven days a week, July 4-August 4 (based on the weather and size of the crop). Applicants must be at least 14 years of age.

Desired traits include initiative, ability to anticipate tasks in succession, asks questions, flexibility, ability to work independently as well as with a team, organized, punctual. **For more information, please contact Mr. Lazar at [lazarj@mygta.us](mailto:lazarj@mygta.us).** He looks forward to hearing from you!

### At-home health screening reminder

Our goal for the 2021-22 school year and beyond is for our students and staff to stay healthy so that we may remain open for in-person instruction. It continues to be so important for parents to screen for illness **before** bringing your children to school, especially for COVID symptoms, and keeping them home if necessary – both in their best interest and for the protection of others. Please check for the following: *fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough, new absence of taste or smell, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain or new onset of a severe headache (especially with a fever).* Please keep children home with any of these symptoms. If your child is symptomatic, please refer to the attached Student Screening tool to determine if they should be tested for COVID and when they may return to school, based on the guidance for their symptoms. **If a member of your family has had a positive result on a home test, it is important to tell your health care provider as soon as possible so that the Health Department can begin the contact tracing process to alert those who may have been exposed.** With your help, we can all stay healthy and in school, where students learn the best!

### Dad Jokes from Don



I hired a handyman last Friday to do some things around the house while we were out. I gave him a list of six items but when we got home, he'd only done #'s 1, 3 and 5.

*It turns out he only does odd jobs.*

### Ongoing events

**Elementary Pizza Days** – Every other Wednesday, as follows: *February 23, March 9 & 23, April 13 & 27 and May 11 & 25 (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 on Tuesdays using forms provided in Advisory classrooms), \$1.50 per slice of cheese or pepperoni*

**Secondary Bagel Sales** – *Every Wednesday in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4, 7:40-8:00 am, \$2.00 each for several varieties*

**Fill the Pantry Jeans Days** – *March 24, May 26*

## Student Screening

Screen your child for the following symptoms daily before they leave for school. Follow the directions below if your child displays symptoms or has been exposed.

### Symptoms

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

### Close Contact/Potential Exposure

In the past 14 days, has your child:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19; OR
- Had a travel history

If the answer is **YES** to any of the **symptom** questions, keep your child(ren) home from school.

If the answer is **YES** to any symptoms question and **YES** to any close contact/potential exposure question, call the school as soon as possible to let them know the reason your child(ren) won't be there today. Call your healthcare provider right away. If you don't have one or cannot be seen, go to [www.mi.gov/coronavirustest](http://www.mi.gov/coronavirustest) or call 2-1-1 to find a location to have your child(ren) tested for COVID-19.

If the answer is **YES** to any of the symptom questions, but **NO** to any close contact/potential exposure questions, your student may return based on the guidance for their symptoms (see "[Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#)"):

- Fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Sore throat: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken);
- Cough/Shortness of breath: improvement
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
- Severe headache: improvement

**DISCLAIMER: This screening tool is subject to change based on the latest information on COVID-19.**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#)

