



Connections

A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy Families



October 16, 2020

Volume 21
Issue 6

Dates to remember

Friday, October 16 – Parent/Teacher Conferences (see schedule below)

Monday-Friday, October 19-23 – Secondary Homecoming Week Activities

Thursday & Friday, October 22 & 23 – Parent/Teacher Conferences (see schedule below)

Monday, November 2 – School Picture Retakes

Thursday, November 19 – GTA Cares Fill the Pantry Jeans Day

Students of the Month named

Congratulations to the following, who were selected as Secondary Students of the Month for September, based on their demonstration of the character trait of **Caring**:



Kialie Wise, grade 8, is the daughter of Elizabeth Bouthillier and Bruce Wise. When she's not busy with schoolwork, she helps out at home or on the farm and gives her brother a hand with his homework. Kialie also has a job cutting logs at a cabin. Her aspirations include getting good

grades, graduating from college and becoming successful at her chosen vocation.



Dylan Yodzio, grade 8, is the son of Rebecca and Wayne Yodzio. His favorite class is art and he likes to run and play baseball and basketball. Dylan also enjoys biking, camping, playing with his dog and spending time with his family. He plans to attend college after graduating from high school.



Ella Froehlich, grade 10, is the daughter of Annie Callahan and Bill Froehlich. She plays basketball and clarinet at school and has been active in the Key Club. Ella loves to volunteer at the Humane Society and the State Theatre. Her goals include playing volleyball throughout high school, graduating

with a 4.0 GPA, attending college and traveling the world.



Zach Dunson, grade 11, is the son of Cheryl Dunson and Trevor Dunson. His interests include Star Wars, gaming and physical activity. Zach works at the Filling Station Microbrewery and loves spending time with his family and watching old cooking shows with them. Astrology and the concept of life

outside of our planet are interests he would like to pursue. Zach's goals after high school are to earn scholarships to attend a good college and to earn a degree in the science field so he can succeed at his future career.

Varsity academic awards presented

The following students were honored this week for earning a cumulative 3.4 GPA or higher in both the first and second semesters of the 2019-20 school year. Due to our current health safety protocols, the traditional awards presentation was replaced with a video created by Mrs. Floering and Mrs. Patrzik that was shown during advisories, and certificates and varsity letters (or pins) were presented by advisors. Please join us in congratulating these students for their significant accomplishment!

First Year Honorees: Bethaney Beaver, Kaleigh Bremmer, James Brooks, Claudia Burley, Carson Calvachi, Anabelle Cherup, Isaac Deneau, Olivia Dimitrijevic, Isaac Dunson, Eliana Evans, Madalyn

Ferguson, Petra Foote, Ella Froehlich, Zoe Hahn, Kathryn Hanes, Madalyn Hartley, Jadon Hadfield, Stephen Holcomb, Zachary Holcomb, Reed Hudson, Julia Jones, Elizabeth Kornexl, Kayden Krumrie, Courtney Lick, Edward McCauley, Isabell McMann, Coleman Mroczkowski, Britta Olshove, Andrew Pavwoski, Benjamin Rice, Ahnaf Rabbani, Austin Rubin, Lilly Sarya, Brianna Schumacher, Ethan Schwabe, Jocelyn Stephen, Jaylah Suchland, Isaiah Towne, Norah VanWingerden.

Second-Year Honorees: Jared Bopry, Kyle Bopry, Thomas Brinks, Madison Brown, Katelynn Dix, Zachary Dunson, Ruby Edgren, Bo Eyre, Ezra Feck, Parker Fishel, Michaila-Ann Kinney, Danea Klooster, Hunter Laven, Kiley Long, Dawson Mesko, Finnegan Piché, David Riess, Dmitri Silkovskiy, Samuel Stivani, Cam Urban, Timothy Vang, Kirk Weathers. **Third-Year Honorees:** Seth Carpenter, Elizabeth Courtright, Jasmine Destouet, Eleanore Ettawageshik, Melissa Hatch, Bereket Kladder, McKenna Landrum, Ella Meyers, Hannah Normandeau, Alexis Payne, Zane VanWingerden, Jacob White, Mandy Whitscell, Angelina Wilkins, Abigail Williams.

It's conference time!

Our first parent-teacher conferences of the year are in full swing, with both virtual and in-person options to accommodate parents:



Elementary. Conferences are available for parents of Elementary face-to-face students either in person,

or virtually through Google Meet. Elementary appointments should be made online through [School Bookings](#). If you do not have internet access, please give us a call at 995-0665 and we will schedule your spot(s) for you. If you prefer to meet with teachers virtually, you may contact them directly to set up a Google Meet conference after reserving your meeting time.

Secondary. Conferences for parents of all Secondary students are available either in person or virtually through Google Meet. Secondary appointments should be made online through [School Bookings](#). If you do not have internet access, please stop by the office or give us a call at 932-6038 and we will schedule your spot(s) for you. If you have chosen to meet virtually, we will contact you with an invitation to a Google Meet conference.

Conference times and options are available as follows:

Date	Elementary	Secondary
Friday October 16	12:20-3:00 pm In-Person or Virtual	1:00-3:00 pm Virtual Only
Thursday October 22	4:20-8:00 pm In-Person or Virtual	4:00-7:00 pm Virtual Only
Friday October 23	12:20-3:00 pm In-Person or Virtual	1:00-3:00 pm In-Person

Have you downloaded our new app yet?

If you haven't already, be sure to download GTA's new app on your iPhone (<https://apple.co/3bCRz87>) or Android (<https://bit.ly/3h9NIX0>).



Just follow these easy steps:

- Select "ALLOW" when prompted on initial download to ensure you receive notifications
- Open the app and navigate to the top left menu and then click on "SETTINGS" near the bottom of the list
- Be sure that notifications are turned on

LSSU announces holiday art contest

Lake Superior State University, which granted our school charter, is holding their annual holiday art contest. All LSSU academy students in grades K-12 are eligible to submit their artwork in the following categories: K-grade 2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Winners will be notified by December 14 and will receive an LSSU t-shirt and SWAG bag and have their work displayed on the university's charter school office official 2020 holiday card! Interested young artists should complete their designs on plain, white letter-sized (8 ½ x 11") and include their name, age, grade, t-shirt size (youth or adult S, M, L or XL) and the name of our school on the back. Any medium can be used but keep in mind that the image will be scanned. Submissions must be received by November 25. Mail to:

Julie Hopper
Academic Assessment Specialist
Lake Superior State University
Charter Schools Office – Fletcher Center
650 West Easterday Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Mustang roundup

Muddy Relays cross country meet a sloppy success.



Last Saturday, GTA hosted four area high school and junior high cross country teams in a 4-mile relay event for teams of two runners. Our high school boys' teams earned three medals (3rd, 5th and 7th places), high school girls



took three (2nd, 4th and 7th), junior high boys earned three (3rd, 6th and 7th) and junior high girls four (1st,

4th, 5th and 7th). The adjacent wetlands provided plenty of mud for the event, which was enjoyed by all!

Basketball. Junior high boys' basketball is starting soon – information has been sent via email to both students and parents.

Soccer. Our co-op soccer team is on fire, with a 5-0 win against the TC Bulldogs last Friday and a 4-0 defeat of Harbor Springs on Wednesday. They have advanced to the district semifinal game against Grayling, planned for **Monday, October 19 at the Keystone Soccer Complex at 4:30 pm.** The team appreciates the support of their fans and looks forward to seeing a crowd on Monday!

Secondary Homecoming Week events planned

Next week, **October 19-23**, is Homecoming Week! Homecoming is an annual tradition and celebration meant to unite students and create a stronger sense of school pride. Following are some events for Secondary students throughout the week:

- **Dress-Up Days** – Each day of the week has a special dress-up theme. Secondary students are encouraged

to dress as suggested below. Note that jeans and a spirit wear or uniform top may be worn with a “spirit wristband” as an alternative to the dress-up theme. The bands are \$8 each and will be sold only through an online form sent to students and delivered to advisories for payment and distribution.

Monday – PJ Day. Students may roll out of bed and head straight to school! School-appropriate pajamas and slippers may be worn all day.

Tuesday – Monochrome Day. Students should dress head to toe in the color of their choice.

Wednesday – Sports Team Day. Students may wear the t-shirt or jersey of their favorite sports team, either college or professional.

Thursday – Wild West Day. Students are encouraged to dress in the style of the old west – cowboy hats included!

Friday – Formal Wear (HS) and Semi-Formal Wear (JH) Day. Students may wear what they would have worn to the High School Homecoming or Junior High Harvest Dance, had we been able to hold them. Young ladies' dresses must not be shorter than fingertip length or strapless and young men are reminded to wear a tie.

- **Throwback Music Video Contest**
- **Can Drive for the Father Fred Food Pantry**

It's not too late to order school pictures!

If you did not order pictures when they were taken in September, it's not too late! Either [visit the Timeless Image website](#) or scan the QR code at left to place and pay for your order. Order codes are 5820 for Preschool & Elementary and 6320 for Junior High & High School. **As a reminder, School picture retakes are scheduled for Monday, November 2.**



Virtual college rep meetings planned

Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to meet with representatives from various colleges, universities and the armed services right here at school. This is a great way to learn about program offerings and ask questions

during the post-secondary decision-making process. **This year, the meetings will be done virtually through Google Meet** and recorded and stored so that other students may access the information later. Upcoming dates are as follows, with more to come!

Tuesday, October 20
Grand Valley State University

Thursday, October 22
Alma College

Monday, October 26
Northwestern Michigan College

Thank you!

A big “thanks” goes to Casciano Traverse City, Inc. –



Burger King for donating 50 breakfast sandwiches for our seniors on

SAT day, and Groleau’s Farm Market for fresh apples as a mid-morning snack. These contributions helped keep our students fueled and alert! Thanks also to their parents for making the extra effort to get them to school early and prepared for testing.

Substitute teachers needed

There is a shortage of substitute teachers at schools throughout the region and Grand Traverse Academy is no exception. If you are interested in covering for teacher absences at our school, we’d love to hear from you! You need not be a certified teacher or have a degree: requirements include at least 60 credits earned from an accredited college or university. Pay is \$55 per half day or \$100 per full day; benefits are working with and for our team of dedicated professionals and spending time with our awesome students! Contact Maria Dean at deanm@mygta.us to apply.

Save the date: Three-Mile Trail outdoor open house at GTA

Thursday, October 22, 4:30-6:00, South Parking Lot
Join East Bay Township and TART Trails for an outdoor public open house to create a community vision for a proposed Three-Mile Trail extension between South Airport and Hammond Roads, as well as other nearby connections. Share your ideas for design, amenities and access points along the proposed trail system! The new

trail will cross the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy’s Mitchell Creek Meadows property and is planned in coordination with East Bay’s Safe Routes to Schools infrastructure improvements. The event will be outside under a tent right here at GTA and will use COVID-19 prevention practices. Attendees must wear masks unless medically unable, and social distancing measures will be in place. Those unable to attend the event can participate via an online survey, which will be available immediately after the open house at www.eastbaytwp.org.

Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

Save your Oleson’s receipts, please! Do you shop at Oleson’s Food Markets? Did you know that your cash register receipts are worth money to our school? With the Oleson’s Community



Share Program, you earn “Community Share Points” each time you shop (with the exception of alcohol purchases). One point equals one cent, so if you spend \$100 on groceries, you’ve earned \$1 for GTA! These points add up quickly and resulted in over \$1,000 in earnings last year, even though the school year was cut short. It’s easy to participate – simply save your receipts and place them in the collection box inside the Elementary entrance (to the right of the office door).

Box Tops for Education. If you’re familiar with the Box



Tops for Education coupons found on many grocery items, you may have noticed

something new: Now you can earn cash for our school in a whole new way. A new [Box Tops mobile app](#) allows you to scan store receipts, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our earnings online. No more clipping, taping onto collection sheets and dropping them off at school! You may still find the traditional Box Tops coupons on certain items, which can still be brought in to either office, but be sure to download the app now to take advantage of this easy way to earn free money for GTA!