

Connections

February 2, 2018
Volume 19
Issue 22



A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy
Families



Dates to remember

Wednesday, February 7 – Senior Parent Bake Sale, 11:30 am-12:30 pm; Tables Outside Secondary Office

Friday, February 9 – Deadline for Blue Lake Audition Application/Permission Slips

Friday, February 9, 16 & 23 – Family Council/Builders Club School Supplies Drive (look for boxes at entrances)

February 25 – Mock Battle of the Books, Northwestern Michigan College

March 10 – Battle of the Books Team Battle Day, Northwestern Michigan College

Thursday, March 15 – End of Open Enrollment Period/Last Day for Elementary Teacher Requests

Friday, March 16 – Enrollment Lottery Drawing

March 18 – Battle of the Books Championship & All-Team Finale, City Opera House



A message from Mr. Coneset

Dear GTA Families,



I am overwhelmed with joy to be able to serve as GTA's superintendent, and for the massive support that I have received so far. Grand Traverse Academy is a special place, and we have outstanding families, students, and staff! This is an exciting time for us all, as we look toward what the future holds for our school. As an

organization, we have been reflecting on what lies at the foundation of GTA. I have come up with five principles that serve as the basis in my own Quality World, and want you to understand that they will be what drives my decision-making as we go forward. GTA was founded on Choice Theory, character education, school uniforms for students & staff, and high academic and behavioral expectations. All five of these things make GTA a unique place to learn and grow. Additionally, they promote positive relationships among all stakeholders and allow us to capitalize on additional opportunities. GTA has a very bright future! I am excited to be serving you all, and look forward to our continued partnership. As you head into what I hope to be a fantastic weekend, thank you for sharing your children with us!

Peace,

Jim

Open Enrollment period continues

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2018-19 school year runs through Thursday, March 15 – with an Enrollment Lottery planned for Friday, March 16.

Enrollment Information Meetings are scheduled as follows, and will take place in the Staff Gathering Room:



- Thursday, February 8 – 9:30 am**
- Tuesday, February 20 – 6:00 pm**
- Monday, March 12 – 6:00 pm**

If you have friends, neighbors or relatives with school-aged children, please share this information with them.

As always, we are happy to meet with parents individually and schedule a school tour. Please direct parents to Amy Truesdell, 932-6900 or truesdella@mygta.us with enrollment questions or to arrange a tour.

High school students support Special Olympics athletes

GTA high school students carried on our tradition this



week of supporting Special Olympics

figure skaters at Howe Arena with personalized posters and lots of encouragement. This is a win-win, as it's as rewarding for our students as it is for the competitors, who are so appreciative of having fans in the stands!

Sophomores to visit CTC

GTA 10th graders will be visiting the TBAISD Career-Tech Center the afternoon of Wednesday, February 7. The bus leaves GTA at noon and will return by 2:15. This trip provides students with an opportunity to preview the programs available to them should they choose to attend the CTC as 11th graders. Questions? Please contact Stephanie Patrzik,

2018-19 Elementary teacher requests accepted

Elementary teacher requests for your child(ren) will be accepted during our Open Enrollment period, January 8-March 15. Attached is a request form to complete and return to the Elementary office. Parents are welcome to observe any classroom before making a decision; simply contact the Elementary office at 995-0665 to set

up a classroom visit. Please note that only forms with both a first and second choice can be considered.

Choice Theory for Parents offered

It's not too late to join in on "Choice Theory for Parents," which meets next on **Thursday, March 1**, followed by the first Thursday of the month through the end of the school year. Each Choice Theory session is independent of the others, so it is not necessary to commit to the entire series – choose one or all of the sessions! For more information or to register, contact Mindy VanHouzen at 932-6960 or vanhouzenm@mygta.us.

Scholastic Book Fair volunteers needed

Another great Scholastic Book Fair is planned for March 1-9 in the Small Gym. Parent volunteers are needed to supervise/assist shoppers and run the cash register during the school day and two evenings during parent-teacher conferences. If you can help with one or more shifts, please visit the [Scholastic volunteer page](#) to sign up or contact Julianna Schuetze at schuetzej@mygta.us or 932-6941.

School supplies drive planned for next three Fridays

The GTA Family Council, in conjunction with our Junior



High Builders Club, is planning a school supplies drive. Supplies donated will replenish classroom materials that

start to run low as the year progresses. Items on our teachers' wish lists are as follows: facial tissues, disinfectant wipes, pencils, protractors, markers, colored pencils, child-sized scissors, Velcro® strips, page protectors, sticky notes (3 x 3" and 12 x 12"), erasers, handheld pencil sharpeners, fine point white board markers, index cards, plastic organizing bins and hanging folder bins. Look for containers at each entrance on **the last three Fridays of February**. Builders Club members will organize and distribute the supplies when the drive is complete. This drive is completely voluntary, but anything you care to contribute will be greatly appreciated!

Mighty Mustangs Preschool enrolling now

Grand Traverse Academy's preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2018-19 school year. Mighty Mustangs Preschool is for children ages 3-5. Our loving teachers provide age



appropriate, hands-on, fun activities and a play-based and developmentally appropriate curriculum. Spanish, music, physical activities and character education are included. If you or someone you know is looking for a preschool option, please pick up an application in the Elementary office. Hours, fees and other details can be found at <https://www.mygta.us/preschool>.

Mustang roundup



- **HELP WANTED:** We are currently looking for a head varsity softball coach for the spring 2018 season, which begins on March 12. For details, [click here](#) or visit the GTA website and click on Athletics>Coaching Vacancies.

- This week, our girls' basketball teams picked up three wins:

The JH Navy team traveled to Northport, where they defeated the Wildcats 16-11.

The JV girls scored a win against Bear Lake, with a final score of 38-19. Leading scorers were **Morgan Porter** (19 points), **Melissa Hatch** (10 points) and **Madison Clark** (6 points).

The Varsity game against Bear Lake went back and forth, with a final score of 58-43. High scorer for the game was **Meghan Scharpenberg**, with 26 points, 20 rebounds, 9 steals and 7 assists. **Alyssa Tarkowski** chipped in 20 points, 11 rebounds, 5 assists and 7 steals. **Hannah Weatherholt** added 4 points, 10 rebounds, and 3 blocks, while **Christina Smith** contributed 4 points and 3 steals. The girls are now 11-3 for the season. Highlights of the game were published in the [Record Eagle](#).

Builders Club assists Kids Against Hunger

The GTA Builders Club (a Kiwanis International middle



school service organization) is partnering with our local Kiwanis Club to support Kids Against Hunger. KAH is a nonprofit humanitarian organization whose mission is "to provide fully nutritious food to impoverished children and families around the world...and around the corner." Proceeds from the club's January bake sale enabled them to help with a KAH satellite food packing project. In addition to their cash donation, Builders Club members, along with club advisor Rachel Odziana, will work side by side with Kiwanis members on Saturday to pack nutritious meals for hungry children. Thank you, students, for "Paying It Forward"!

Middle Elementary students serve up "A Slice of the Author's Life"

Mrs. Lazar's and Ms. Deegan's 3rd & 4th grade classes



send a huge thank you to Domino's Pizza on Munson Avenue. These students researched various authors of children's books as part of an author study. The culmination was A Slice of the Author's Life, in which the students presented facts, a timeline, and the list of books written by that author in a pizza box! Domino's



Pizza very generously donated a pizza box for each student. Thank you!

Box Tops for Education update

The next round of Box Tops to expire have a date of March 1. If you're collecting these coupons, be sure to check the dates and turn them in. We are still in the contest mode: the classroom with the most Box Tops sheets turned in by May



1 will be treated to a pizza party! According to the General Mills Box Tops program overseer, "There are millions of dollars in potential school funds sitting on store shelves just waiting to be clipped, but a staggering number of Box Tops go unclipped each year." Let's take advantage of this easy way to earn money for our school with items that you probably already purchase. For more information, visit [Box Tops for Education](http://www.BoxTopsforEducation.com).

Health Department screenings scheduled

The Grand Traverse County Health Department will administer free, routine vision tests here at school according to the following schedule:

Grades	Dates
1, 3, 5, 7, 9	February 12, 13, 14, 15

If you would like to have your child screened and they are not in one of the grades listed, please call the Elementary office at 995-0665 to make arrangements.

Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

- Clip and place in the receptacle inside the Elementary entrance:
 - ✓ Box Tops for Education Logos
 - ✓ Oleson's Cash Register Receipts
- Present your "Fun Funds" card each time you shop at Gordon Food Service
- Donate your Coca-Cola product rewards points at www.mycokerewards.com

take!
note!

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

Ongoing events

Secondary Pizza Sales – Tuesdays during Junior High & High School Lunches (\$1.50 per slice – tickets must be purchased in advance Tuesday mornings)

NHS Donut Sales – Fridays, 7:40 am, Outside Secondary Office (\$1.00 each)

Secondary Taco Sales – Thursdays during Junior High & High School Lunch (\$1.50 each – tickets must be purchased in advance Thursday mornings)

Tie-Dyed T-Shirt Sales – Daily, 8:00-8:25 am, Elementary Wing Entrance (discounted to \$12 each through the month of December!)

Key Club Meetings – Every Thursday, 7:40-8:05 am, Silver 3 (high school students)

Builders Club Meetings – First & Third Thursdays of the Month, 3:45-4:15 pm, MPR 4 (junior high students)

NJHS Meetings – February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16

Student-Run Credit Union – February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11 in Elementary Lobby (no make-ups for snow days); 8:00-8:30 am, Elementary Lobby