

February 9, 2018
Volume 19
Issue 23



A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy
Families



Dates to remember

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)*

Wednesday, February 14 – *Academic Pep Assembly (Secondary), 8:10 am, Big Gym*

Thursday, February 15 – *Blue Lake Auditions*

Monday, February 19 – *NO SCHOOL, Mid-Winter Break*

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

Thursday, March 1 – *Choice Theory for Parents, 6:00-7:00 pm, Onyx 2*

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*



Junior High boys' lock-in postponed

The lock-in planned for 7th & 8th grade boys this month has been postponed. Please watch for detailed information and a new date soon!

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:



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.

GTA 6th grader wins award in "Write Michigan" contest

Congratulations to GTA 6th grader Ellie Kladder, who



won the youth division Judges' Choice Runner-Up Award in the recent Write Michigan Short Story Contest! She will be presented with a check for \$100 at an awards ceremony in Grand Rapids in March, and her story will be published in the 2018 Write Michigan short story anthology.

Science teacher welcomed

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Blane Windon will be assuming the responsibilities of Secondary science teacher for the remainder of the year. Mr. Windon comes with many years of teaching experience, and is excited to be part of the Grand Traverse Academy team. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Windon as our 8th grade science and Project Lead the Way teacher!

GTA Cares update

We were overwhelmed with generosity in December when we introduced GTA Cares and announced a need for assistance with food and Christmas gifts on the part of a few of our GTA families. Unfortunately, the need is not just at the holidays for some, but continues throughout the year. We have just heard from a GTA parent whose family has welcomed a third child into their household but money is tight and help with groceries, in the form of Meijer gift cards, would be much appreciated. If you care to contribute, contact Mindy Van Houzen, GTA Cares coordinator, at vanhouzenm@mygta.us or 932-6960. She can also add your email address to the GTA Cares network mailing list so that you will be informed as needs arise.

GTA students participate in "Brain Bee"

Nine of our high school girls competed in last Sunday's



Brain Bee at Michigan State University. Brain Bee is a live quiz-style competition that tests the neuroscience knowledge of high school students, who vie to determine the "best brain" on such topics as intelligence, memory, emotions, sensations, movement, stress, aging, sleep, addiction, Alzheimer's, and stroke. Shown are (front, l-r): **Abby Cherup**, **Abbey Killian**, and

Jasmine Dean; (back, l-r): **Emma Theisen**, **Liz Piggott**, **Alana Vang**, **Grace Hahn**, **Jayna Pascarelli**, and **Mieke Zuiderveen**. This is the fourth year that GTA students have participated.

Builders Club supports Kids Against Hunger

As we mentioned last week, our Junior High Builders



Club presented the local Kiwanis Club with a check to help support Kids Against Hunger, a nonprofit humanitarian organization whose mission is "to provide fully nutritious food to impoverished children and families around

the world...and around the corner." Last Saturday, they joined local Kiwanis members in measuring, bagging, weighing and sealing 20,000 rice protein meals! A third of them were delivered to the Father Fred Foundation and the remaining meals will be distributed to areas of need, both nationally and internationally. Thank you, students, for "Paying It Forward" with your compassion and hard work.

Sponsor-a-Senior opportunity

"Project Graduation," a tobacco-, alcohol- and drug-free event following our graduation ceremony, has become a proud tradition at Grand Traverse Academy. This exciting all-night celebration is for all GTA seniors and is funded through the generosity and support of the Grand Traverse community. Fundraisers and donation solicitations are underway to help defray some of the costs and make this a fun and affordable event for all, but our students need your support! Would you like to sponsor a senior to help make his or her graduation night a safe and memorable occasion? See the attached sponsorship form for details. Donations, regardless of the amount, are greatly appreciated may be tax-deductible.

Junior High registration meeting scheduled

Parents of current 6th graders are invited to a Junior High registration meeting on **either** Tuesday, February

27 at 5:30 pm in Onyx 1 or Wednesday, February 28 at 3:00 pm in the Big Gym (choose one). Topics will include the Secondary attendance policy, athletic opportunities, Project Lead the Way, school uniforms and Junior High course choices. Elective selection forms will also be collected at this time. Please call the Secondary office at 932-6038 with any questions and to reserve your spot!

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.

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 underway

The GTA Family Council, in conjunction with our Junior High Builders Club, is holding 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 today and the next two Fridays. 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

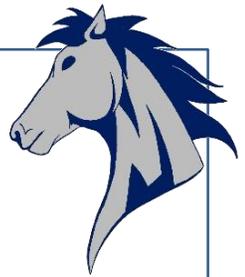
Grand Traverse Academy's preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2018-19 school year. Mighty Mustangs Preschool is for children ages 3-5. Our loving teachers provide age



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.



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](#).



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**



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

Grand Traverse Academy Teacher Request Form

I would like to request the following teacher(s) for the next school year:

Name	Grade in Fall	Teacher Request First Choice	Teacher Request Second Choice
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

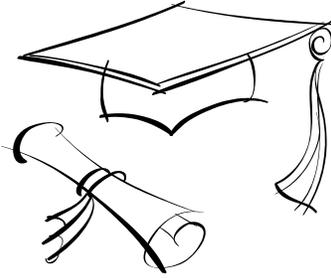
Parent Signature

Date

Please note that only forms with both a first and second choice can be considered



SPONSOR-A-SENIOR



PROJECT GRADUATION CLASS OF 2018

Project Graduation has become a proud tradition at Grand Traverse Academy. It is an exciting all night event that is tobacco, drug and alcohol free. This graduation celebration is for all Grand Traverse Academy Seniors. Project Graduation is funded through the generosity and support of the Grand Traverse Community.

OUR SENIORS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Do you know a senior that you would like to sponsor to help make his or her graduation night a memorable occasion? Please complete the form below. Donations, regardless of the amount, are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: **GTA Project Graduation** and mailed to:

GTA Project Graduation
ATTN: Mindy Van Houzen
1245 Hammond Road East
Traverse City, MI 49686

If you have any questions, please contact Mindy at (231) 932-6960

SPONSOR NAME AND ADDRESS

Check # _____

Enclosed is my general donation of \$ _____ to the class of 2018.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ to sponsor _____
Name of Senior*

My "Congratulations" should read:

From: _____

*An acknowledgment of your sponsorship will be sent to the senior.