



February 15, 2019
Volume 19
Issue 21

A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy
Families

Dates to remember

Now through Thursday, March 14 – *Open Enrollment*

Saturday, February 16 – *High School Frost Fest Dance, 8:00-11:00 pm, Small Gym*

Monday, February 18 – *NO SCHOOL (Mid-Winter Break)*

Wednesday, February 20 – *Enrollment Information Meeting, 6:00 pm, Staff Gathering Room*

Saturday, February 23 – *Self Love Beauty Teen Conference (for girls ages 13-18), 9:00 am-5:00 pm, GTA*

Thursday, February 28-Friday, March 8 – *Scholastic Book Fair*

February 28, March 1, 7 & 8 – *Parent-Teacher Conferences (see details below)*

Thursday, February 28 – *6th Grade Parent Information Meeting*

Open Enrollment period continues

Grand Traverse Academy’s Open Enrollment period for the 2019-20 school year has officially begun, and continues through **Thursday, March 14**, with an Enrollment



Lottery Drawing planned for Friday, March 15 should the number of applications exceed available spaces. Enrollment Information Meetings for parents of prospective students are scheduled as follows, and will take place in the Staff Gathering Room:

Wednesday, February 20 – 6:00 pm

Monday, March 11 – 6:00 pm

If you have friends, neighbors or relatives with school-aged children, please share this information with them! **As always, school leaders are available to meet with parents individually if these dates and times are not convenient for them.**

GTA senior wins poetry reading competition

Congratulations to senior **Molly Stadler**, who took first place in Wednesday’s “Poetry Out Loud” contest through her Front Street Writers class at the TBA Career-Tech Center. Twenty-five students from a five-county area competed by choosing a poem from a list provided, and then memorizing and reciting it. Molly chose “Time Does Not Bring Relief; You All Have Lied,” by Edna St. Vincent Millay. Her win qualifies her for the state competition in Lansing on March 1. One winner per state goes on to the national competition in Washington, DC. Best wishes, Molly!



Current students automatically enrolled for 2019-20

Please note that current GTA students do not need to reapply to attend Grand Traverse Academy during subsequent school years. However, if you have a child who will be entering kindergarten or transferring from another school to GTA in the fall, an enrollment application must be completed. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Truesdell at truesdella@mygta.us or 932-6900.

Junior High robotics team advances to state competition

A team of three GTA 7th graders took second place in



the Skills category at the recent VEX Robotics competition at Bellaire Middle School. **Gil Piché, Luke Bilderback** and **Tristan Bembeneck** qualified for the State Championship tournament on March 2 at Monroe County Community College. Placing in any category at the state event will earn them a spot in the World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky on March 11. Good luck, boys!

Three spellers advance to Regional Bee

Although only four of our six qualifying spellers were



able to attend Wednesday's County Spelling Bee, they did GTA proud! **Charmaine Gates** held strong for several rounds,

and the remaining three all placed in the final six, which means they will be competing at the regional bee for the Washington DC spot! **Sadie Brown-Bannon** (right) took 6th place, **Nicholas Morgan** (center) took 5th place, and after nearly 10 rounds of back and forth with one other competitor for the win, **Drew Pavwoski** (left) took 2nd. Please congratulate them all and wish them well at the Regional Bee at the State Theatre in downtown Traverse City on March 17 at 11:00 am.

Volunteers needed for spring Book Fair

Parent volunteers are needed to help out at the upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. The Fair is planned for Thursday, February 28-Friday, March 8, and will be open during school hours and the evenings of February 28 and March 7 (during parent-teacher conferences). If you can help, please sign up [here](#) or contact Julianna Schuetze at 932-6941 or schuetzej@mygta.us.

GTA student excels in VASA Fat Bike Race

Congratulations to our own **Kyan Olshove**, GTA 10th



grader, who took 8th place overall (including adults) in the 40K Fat Bike Race at the North American VASA Festival of Races last Saturday! Jim Coneset, GTA superintendent, had this to say about Kyan: "He is truly an amazing athlete, but I think what

is greatest is that he embodies character in athletics; he is a fierce competitor with the professional work habits to be successful, races with integrity, takes the initiative to lead the pack, and is always optimistic about his races. We could all learn from Kyan's example!"

Upper Elementary students learn about personal finance

On February 12, Jason Acosta, VP of operations and



member services, and Abbie Hart, regional branch manager from 4Front Credit Union visited Mr. Lazar's class to talk about managing personal finances. The students had recently completed the course offered by 4Front, called Banzai! As part of this course, students took a pretest, participated in real life scenarios, played a game in which they had to budget money for a given goal, and complete a post-test. They learned a lot during this course and were able to share their findings with Jason and Abbie. After their presentation, they were given 4Front mugs as well as a pizza party! Meghan Morelli, community relations specialist, was also present for the presentation and, along with Jason and Abbie, had many positive things to say about our students and how polite and helpful they were. Great job, students!

Choice Theory: The Basics

Five Basic Needs

by Mindy VanHouzen

When we hear someone talk about the basic needs we



typically think of food, shelter, clothing, etc. In Choice Theory, the basic needs are a little different. Your child may have brought home an outline of their hand, decorated with the names of the five basic needs: fun, love & belonging, freedom,

power and survival. These needs are the motivators for every decision we make, so understanding them is very important. In the coming weeks we will take a closer look at the characteristics of each need, but for now we will explore how our needs influence our decisions.

Like snowflakes, every person's basic need profile is unique. Some people will have a very strong desire to meet their love and belonging need, and a very low desire to meet their power need. Other people may want to meet their need for fun over everything else. No two people are alike. Once you can identify in yourself what needs you meet with the decisions you make, you are able to make better choices to satisfy that need. Being aware of the basic needs, and how we are motivated by them, also helps us to be empathetic towards others.

Let's go back and visit Sally and Kit again. Sally and Kit played soccer on the playground one day. The next day, Kit wanted to swing with another friend and Sally wanted to play soccer with Kit again. It's pretty safe to say that whatever the recess activity is, it was chosen to satisfy the need for fun. When we look a little deeper, we may find that Sally has a very high need for love and belonging. This might be why she sought out Kit as a playmate again. Kit, on the other hand, may have a high need for freedom, which would explain her desire to swing with another friend. If we can help Sally to see that Kit isn't being mean, she just has a different need to be met, we may be able to help Sally balance her scales. Sally may choose to meet her love and belonging need by playing with someone else that is in her Quality World.

This is one of the reasons why our teachers work so hard to have a personal relationship with each student. It is our desire to know each student, and the strength of their basic needs, so that we can assist them with learning how to constructively meet their

needs. Please note: The only one who can meet your needs is you. Our teachers help students identify their needs and how to have them met, but it is up to the individual to satisfy them appropriately.

Ride to/from school needed for Lower Elementary student

A GTA second grader is in need of a ride to and from school Monday-Friday. His family lives in King's Court, off of LaFranier Road. If you live in or near King's Court, or pass by this area on your daily commute and wish to help out, please contact Mindy VanHouzen at 932-6960 or vanhouzenm@mygta.us for details.



Register now for Parent-Teacher Conferences

Second semester Parent-Teacher Conferences are planned as follows:

Date	Elementary	Secondary
Thursday, February 28	4:20-8:00 pm	5:00-7:00 pm (Meet & Greet)*
Friday, March 1	12:20-3:00 pm	12:30 pm-3:00 pm
Thursday, March 7	4:20-8:00 pm	4:00-8:00 pm
Friday, March 8	12:20-3:00 pm	12:30-3:00 pm

Now is a great time to schedule your time slots to meet with your children's teachers. Simply go to www.schoolbookings.net and enter Event Code **wpu4** for Elementary and **n628g** for Secondary in the white box and click GO!

*A get-together for parents who have no concerns about their children's academic performance but wish to meet casually with their teachers.

New program for Elementary and Junior High girls

Due to administrative changes at the national level, Girls on the Run will no longer be offered in our area this year. In lieu of that, we will be starting a girls' running club called "Girls Take Action." This will be a club for 3rd-5th grade girls with Ms. Kipke and Ms. Deegan, and 6th-8th grade girls with Mrs. Callahan. Ms. Dent, a GTA parent, will be assisting with both groups.



Please watch for more information to come in the upcoming weeks. Our first practice will be held after Spring Break.

Special conference planned for teenaged girls

Grand Traverse Academy is excited to host a teen conference created especially for girls, ages 13-18, and a parent. “Self Love Beauty”, planned for **Saturday, February 23 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm at GTA**, will bring together experts in the area of self, love and beauty to empower attendees with the knowledge and tools to enhance their confidence, strength, mental health and more! For details and to register, visit www.selflovebeauty.com/teenconference.



Family Council news

Grand Traverse Academy’s Family Council is a parent group that provides fun events and fund raising activities for GTA families throughout the school year. They meet on the **second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Onyx 1 classroom**. All GTA parents are welcome to attend. Volunteers are needed to help with the following upcoming events:

- **Thursday, March 7 during Conferences** – Family Dinner. No need to cook! Buy tickets in advance for a taco dinner with your extended GTA family. Volunteers are needed and more information on this event is coming.
- **Friday, April 12 at 6:00 pm** – Father/Daughter Dance. If you are interested in helping with planning or at the event, contact Suzanne at gtafcreporter@gmail.com
- **Last Friday of Every Month** – Lunch Pantry food donations accepted in either office.

The group currently has an officer vacancy – if you are interested in taking on the responsibilities of vice president or would like more information, please contact Kimberly at gtafcpresident@gmail.com or Jim Coneset at conesetj@mygta.us. They would love to have you as part of the team!

Ongoing events

Fill the Pantry Jeans Days – March 21, May 9

Elementary Pizza Days – February 21, March 7 & 21, April 11 & 25, and May 9 & 23 (order forms with payment due the Tuesday before Pizza Day), \$1.50 per slice

Secondary Pizza Days – Every Tuesday (purchase tickets before school outside the Secondary office on Pizza Day), \$1.50 per slice

Secondary Taco Days – Suspended until further notice due to loss of supplier

Bagel Sales – Every Wednesday at the Junction of the Elementary & Secondary Wings, \$1.50 each

School Tools Store Hours – Every Thursday, 7:50-8:25 am, Pink 3

Builders Club Meetings – First & Third Thursday of Every Month, 3:50-4:20 pm, Gold 2

Key Club Meetings – Every Thursday, 7:40 am, Bronze 2

Family Council Meetings – Second Monday of Every Month, 6:30 pm, Onyx 1

Student-Run Credit Union Deposit Days – March 1, April 5 and May 3; 8:00-8:30 am, Elementary Lobby

Elementary teacher requests for 2019-20 accepted now

If you would like to request a specific teaching team (or kindergarten teacher) for your child(ren) for the next school year, please complete the attached form and turn it in to the Elementary office **no later than Thursday, March 14**.

Here’s how:

1. Check page two of the attachment for the names of kindergarten teachers and the teachers who form a team at each Elementary grade level and make your selections for first and second choice.
2. Write your first and second choice selections on page one of the attachment. In the case of

Elementary teaching teams, write in the name of the preferred homeroom teacher in the #1 slot; the other member of the team will go in the #2 slot.

Please note that only forms with both a first and second choice will be considered. If you have questions, please call the Elementary Office at 995-0665.



Don't forget that our Elementary Box Tops contest is still going on...the classroom that collects the most completed collection sheets by the end of the school year will get a special treat. Check the [product list](#) and start clipping! Why not ask grandparents, aunts and uncles to collect them, too? If you don't have an Elementary student who can turn them in to their teacher, a collection box is located just inside the Elementary entrance.

<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>Lower EL 1st and 2nd</i>	<i>Middle EL 3rd and 4th</i>	<i>Upper EL 5th and 6th</i>

**Please note. Team teachers and locations are subject to change.*

<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>Lower EL 1st and 2nd</i>	<i>Middle EL 3rd and 4th</i>	<i>Upper EL 5th and 6th</i>

**Please note. Team teachers and locations are subject to change.*