



Dates to remember

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

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

Tuesday-Friday, February 20-23 – Frost Fest Week for Secondary

Saturday, February 24 – High School Frost Fest Dance, 8:00-11:00 pm

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

Tuesday, February 27 – Junior High Registration Meeting, 5:30 pm, Onyx 1, **OR**

Wednesday, February 28 – Junior High Registration Meeting, 3:00 pm, Big Gym (choose one)

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

Saturday, 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

Thursday, March 15 – Jazz ‘n’ Joes Band Fundraiser Concert/Dinner (watch for details!)

Friday, March 16 – Enrollment Lottery Drawing

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!

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.

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.

Junior High registration meetings planned

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

GTA Career-Tech student earns awards

Congratulations to GTA senior **McKinley Kreitner**, whose photos were chosen as winners in the *Edible Grande Traverse* magazine "Food to Page" high school photography contest. She entered the competition through her Graphic Design & Promotional Media program at the CTC. After touring Sleeping Bear



Farms, a representative gave her some products to stage, resulting in "Sunshine on a Cloudy Day" (top). "Beautiful Brussels" was taken on a Saturday morning at the farmers' market. In addition to having her work published, McKinley received a monetary prize for taking first place in both the Packaged Food and Farm/Crop categories.



GTA French Toast Schoolbox, EmbroidMe online stores available

As you know, there will be an update to school uniform colors to more easily identify each age group of students beginning in 2018/19, with certain colors "grandfathered" for the first year. Along with that is the addition of the French Toast brand, which is available at J.C. Penney and Meijer locally, and online. Check out our French Toast Schoolbox at <https://grandtraverseacademy.itemorder.com> and be sure to refer to it for specific styles before purchasing items at a retail store. Uniform pieces are also available locally at EmbroidMe, located at 1567 W. South Airport Rd, Suite 3 (enter via Park Drive and take the service drive to your immediate left behind the building, pass through the gate and follow the signs). EmbroidMe also has an online GTA Uniform Store, available at www.topshelfpromos.squarespace.com. For your convenience, EmbroidMe will deliver uniform pieces to GTA Monday-Thursday at no charge, and accepts after hours and Saturday appointments.

Middle Elementary students learn snowshoeing

On a recent chilly morning, GTA Middle Elementary



students donned coats, hats, mittens, boots and

snowshoes as they prepared for a brisk hike at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Funded by grants and sponsored by Friends of the Sleeping Bear Dunes, students received snowshoeing instruction and learned about winter ecology, snow science, and how animals and plants adapt in the winter. They also participated in indoor activities at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center in Empire, including a scavenger hunt, studying the various shapes of snowflakes and how they are formed, and learned that snowflakes fall from the sky at three to four miles per hour!



School supplies drive reminder

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. 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! **For your convenience, students may drop them off on their way into the building in the morning. Look for containers at both entrances today and next Friday.**

It's conference time!

Parent-teacher conferences will take place **on March 2, 6 and 8** for grades K-6 and **March 2 and 8** for 7-12. You can book your conferences quickly and easily by using our online booking system at www.SchoolBookings.net. Once you're there, enter the appropriate event code shown below, and you'll be led through three easy steps in choosing the teachers and dates/times that work best for you!

Elementary: 8cctx **Secondary:** nukyc

If you don't have Internet access, we'll have a kiosk set up outside the Secondary office and will be happy to guide you through. Or, give the office staff a call and we'll do the scheduling for you. A Meet & Greet is planned for **Thursday, March 1 from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Small Gym** for Secondary parents who have no concerns but would like to visit informally with their children's teachers.

Frost Fest dress-up days announced!

Frost Fest, our traditional Secondary mid-winter celebration, is planned for **February 20-23**. With a theme of "Going for the Gold," it will be full of fun activities and class competition. Students will want to prepare for the following dress-up days. Jeans (no holes, please) may be worn as an alternative, with a Student Council wristband and a uniform top.



Day	Dress-Up Theme (see forms in the office for details)
Monday	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday	Olympics Colors
Wednesday	Memes
Thursday	Characters
Friday	White Out

Elementary teacher requests accepted

Elementary teacher requests for your child(ren) will be accepted until Thursday, 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.

GTA royalty announced

Congratulations to first graders **Leo Korte** and **June**



York, whose names were drawn as Cherry Festival Prince and Princess! Their families will be building a float to represent our

school in the Junior Royale and Cherry Royale parades during the National Cherry Festival. This year's theme is "Candies" – stay tuned to learn which candy they are assigned, and information on how you might help with the float!

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.
- **Thursday, March 1 at 5:30 pm in the Big Gym** is Meet the Team & Spring Information Night for Secondary track and softball. Registration instructions and eligibility information for baseball and tennis will be included at the beginning of the meeting. We'll review athletic information and hear from the athletic boosters, and then each team and their parents will meet and receive team specific information.

Parent-teacher conference opportunity

GTA families have very generously continued a tradition



of providing a meal for staff members during evening conference blocks. Your efforts are *so appreciated* by those who are working

through the dinner hour with just a short break between conferences. With the help of PerfectPotluck.com, we're making it even easier to participate! Evening conferences take place on **Tuesday, March 6** for Elementary and **Thursday, March 8** for both Elementary and Secondary. If you are interested in helping with food, beverages or table service, simply go to the PerfectPotluck website at www.PerfectPotluck.com/LHX3537 (for Tuesday, March 6) or www.PerfectPotluck.com/WYY22167 (for Thursday, March 8) to sign up. Items should be dropped off in the Elementary office by 3:30 pm on the date you select. **Thank you so much for your commitment to Grand Traverse Academy and our staff!** If you have any questions, please call Maria Dean at 932-6954.

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://BoxTopsforEducation.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



GTA freshman scores win in VASA race

Ninth grader Kyan Olshove earned an age group win in last weekend's VASA Grand Fat Bike race. He came in 17th out of 71 overall and was by far the youngest competitor in the race. Congratulations, Kyan!

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**

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