



March 9, 2018
Volume 19
Issue 27

A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy
Families

Dates to remember

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

Tuesday, March 13 – *Parent Academy Drug Awareness Presentation, 6:00-7:00 pm, Lecture Hall*

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

Thursday, March 15 – *Jazz ‘n’ Joes Band Fundraiser Concert/Dinner*

Friday, March 16 – *Songs & Stories, 7:00 pm, Big Gym*

Friday, March 16 – *Enrollment Lottery Drawing*

Monday-Friday, March 26-30 – *NO SCHOOL, Spring Break*



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. Our last Enrollment Information Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 12** and will take place in the Staff Gathering Room. If you have local 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.

A note from Mr. Coneset

Dear GTA Parents,
As you may have heard, Grand Traverse Academy was mentioned in the news this week in a report about area schools and potential safety concerns. While it is true that law enforcement was called to our school this week, it was for a behavior issue and student safety was never in jeopardy. Safety is our number one priority and we are doing everything we can to provide a safe environment for your children. If student safety is ever threatened, or the school is placed in lock-down, parents will be notified immediately. Last week, Secondary students participated in a presentation made by local law enforcement that outlined how they should respond to situations in which they feel there is a safety concern: They are to immediately report the concern to a staff member – either in person, or via the “Stop It” app that GTA has provided for anonymous student reporting. Students were advised that joking about school safety is not okay, ever! Concerning comments will be investigated by law enforcement to ensure that Grand Traverse Academy remains a safe place for all of our students, families, and staff. The heart of the GTA mission is “safe, loved and learning.” These three concepts apply to all of our students. I understand that families may be concerned that they were not notified by usual methods about the incident, but I can assure you that at no time was the safety of our school in danger. If there had been a threat to student safety, all stakeholders would have been notified. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Peace,

Jim Coneset

Secondary Students of the Month chosen

Congratulations to the following, who were selected as February Students of the Month for their demonstration of the character trait of Integrity:

James Brooks, grade 7, is the son of Jeff Brooks. At school, he plays percussion in the Cadet Band. His favorite classes are science, band and robotics, and he enjoys playing basketball and working out at the gym to stay fit. James would love to also be chosen as Student of the Month for the character traits of Professional



Work Habits and Caring, and to qualify for the National Junior Honor Society. Once he graduates from high school, James plans to attend college to prepare for his dream job of becoming an astronaut.

Katie Carpenter, grade 7, is the daughter of Lisa & Scott



Carpenter. She loves animals, the outdoors, snow and cold weather, and her favorite season is winter. Katie's other interests include art, playing the piano, percussion and cello, and sports, especially running. Her dream destination is Alaska, and she hopes to go there

and participate in the Iditarod Trail sled dog race one day. Ultimately, Katie would like to work in the medical field or with animals, perhaps becoming a veterinarian. She would also like to write a book and improve her skills at drawing people and realistic art.

Ashley Troyer, grade 9, is the daughter of Greg & Beth



Troyer. She participates in volleyball – both at school and on a traveling team – plays the clarinet in band and enjoys playing the ukulele as well. Ashley has been on her church's youth worship team and volunteered at its summer kids' camp. Her goals include

taking AP classes in high school, attending college, having a family and "continuing to build God's kingdom."

Jacob Lock, grade 11, is the son of Daniel Lock and Chellie Lock. He enjoys basketball and playing Rocket League, and works part-time at a local hotel. Jacob loves physics and math and hopes to earn a doctorate degree in theoretical physics. After college, he hopes to work as a research physicist and have a family.



GTA Seniors recognized by local Rotary, Kiwanis Clubs

Hats off to **Jacqueline Hatch** and **Abigael Cherup** on



their selection as Rotary Club Seniors of the Month for February, and **Kallista Laven**, who was chosen as a Kiwanis Club Student of the Week.

Choirs, performance class collaborate on special presentation

On **Friday, March 16**, our Secondary choirs and the high



school musical performance class will present "Songs &

Stories" at **7:00 pm in the Big Gym**. Featured will be songs selected by choir students, including solos, duets and larger ensembles. Between songs, stories will be told which were written by performance class members. This unique event is sure to be one you won't want to miss! There is no admission charge to attend.

Get your tickets now for “Jazz ‘n’ Joes”

Our 12th annual Secondary Bands concert and dinner fundraiser, Jazz ‘n’ Joes, is scheduled for next **Thursday, March 15**. Tickets are still only \$5 per person and include a delicious sloppy joe dinner, catered by El Dorado Catering, and an evening of great music! The theme is always different, with movie favorites featured this year. The evening’s schedule is as follows:

- 4:00-7:30 pm** - Dinner in Small Gym
- 5:00 pm** – Cadet, Concert I & II Bands
- 6:30 pm** - Varsity, Symphonic, Symphony Winds Bands

This is our one and only band fundraiser of the year, and is always a sell-out, so be sure to get your tickets today! They’re available in either office, or from a Secondary band member or Mrs. Floering.

Athletic fundraiser event planned

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 21 from 6:00-8:00 pm**, for our first annual Mustang Derby Dinner &



Silent Auction! This fundraising event is sponsored by the GTA Athletic Boosters and the Mustang athletic department. Dinner, provided by El Dorado Catering, will be served from 6:00 -7:15 pm, with the silent auction closing at 7:45. Tickets for the dinner are \$25 each or \$45 per couple, and will go on sale Monday, March 19 in the Athletic Office (at the curved wall near the Big Gym). Come dressed in your Derby best for a chance to win a prize for best dressed, best Derby hat and more! In addition to purchasing tickets, you can also support this event by becoming an event sponsor or donating an auction item. Table sponsorships are available for \$250, which gets you or your organization a sign in our gym for a full year. Auction items or monetary donations may be dropped off at the Athletic Office. Your support of Mustang Athletics and Boosters projects are greatly appreciated! If you have any questions about the event, please check the GTA Athletics Boosters website at mygtaab.weebly.com or email at gtaathleticboosters@gmail.com.

Student art featured in exhibit

Congratulations to the following elementary students, whose artwork will be showcased at the Crooked Tree Art Center's Regional Youth Art Show:

Grade 2: **Zaya Bright, Kalin Eskeli, Zion Rose**; Grade 3: **Oliver Woods, Colin Wyskochil**; Grade 4: **Nathan Bramer, Alycia Larkins, Kaylin Thompson, Elijah Thompson**, Grade 5: **Analese Lau**; 6th Grade: **Alleah Dix, Jack Dwyer, Ayden Key, Gil Piché, Nathaniel Vang**



Some of the group shown above with their art pieces are, left to right (front row): Kaylin, Elijah, Colin and Nathaniel; (back row) Jack, Gil, Alleah and Ayden. At left is Zion.

An opening reception is planned at the Crooked Tree Art Center this **Sunday, March 11 from 1:00-3:00 pm** and student work will be on display through March 31. Please stop in, take a look, and congratulate our student artists!

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.

Books sent to students in Micronesia

A huge “thank you” to everyone who donated their



spare change, a few dollars or their time in helping with the book clean-up and fundraising to send books to a school in need. Secondary social studies teacher

Katie Polus spearheaded a project to send 11 boxes of over 20 used children’s books each to a Peace

Corps volunteer working at a school with limited resources in Micronesia. These books will serve as a wonderful tool for English instruction and reading at the school;

without many printed books in their own language, much of the reading instruction in Micronesia takes place in English. The classroom photo shown is from a school similar to the one that will receive the books. Your help and dedication to our “Pay It Forward” message is much appreciated!

Parent Academy Drug Awareness course scheduled

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, March 13 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Lecture Hall** for a parent-only Drug Awareness presentation.

Deputy McKinley from the Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department will present an overview of current drug trends and warning signs of drug use in young people. Parents may sign up in either office. If you have questions or



want more information, please contact Mindy Van Houzen at 932-6960 or vanhouzenm@mygta.us.

Mustang roundup



- A parent meeting for varsity and junior high tennis is planned for **Monday, March 12 at 5:45 pm at TC Christian School**. Varsity tennis practice for the first week (March 12-16) will be indoors from 4:00-5:30 pm at the old YMCA off of South Airport Road. The location could change depending on the weather.
- A short equestrian team meeting is planned for **Tuesday, March 13 at 3:40 pm in the Staff Gathering Room** (across from the Athletic Office). This meeting is for all junior high and high school students interested in riding this spring (junior high) or fall (high school). Coach Michalek will be running the meeting and will be able to answer any questions you may have about the sport, requirements and schedules. If you would like to email her directly before the meeting, you can reach her at jeannamichalek@gmail.com.

Students inducted into Builders Club

Nine 7th & 8th graders were inducted into the newly



formed GTA Builders Club last week at a casual, potluck-style ceremony with our students’ families, Traverse City Kiwanis Club President Anita Carlson and Advisor Emi King. This was a very exciting evening, as it was our first induction ceremony ever! Pictured left to right are (front): **Mrs. Odziana**, GTA Builders Club advisor, **Samaria Sanchez** – president, **Isaac Dunson** and **Emi King**, and (back): **Colin Fuller** – secretary, **Sarah Auger** – treasurer, **Elly Froehlich** – president, **Adrian Bembeneck**, **Lilly Sarya**, **Norah VanWingerden** and **Zach Dunson**. The club has many service ideas and plans in

the works for this school year and are excited to continue spreading kindness and giving back to our community! Be on the lookout for their next bake sale on March 14!

Secondary planners still available

If your junior high or high school child is interested in replacing their 2017-18 planner, a limited number are available for purchase in the Secondary Office at the reduced price of just \$2 each.

2018-19 Secondary registration underway

Junior high and high school students are in the process of registering for classes for next year. Parents are encouraged to review their course selections in PowerSchool under Class Registration. If you have any questions, please call the counseling office at 932-6024.

Big Little Hero Race planned

Business students at Northwestern Michigan College are hosting the 2018 Big Little Hero Race, a project for Big Brothers Big Sisters, on **Saturday, April 14**. See the attached flyer for details and registration information.

Out of this world opportunity for students 13 and up!

Students ages 13+ are invited to become a member of the 2018 CanSat satellite mission team for an opportunity to work with professionals from Atlas Space Operations to design, construct, and launch a CanSat mission to the stratosphere! The mission includes programming and installing accelerometers, barometric, humidity, temperature and magnetometer sensors, and GPS – determined by the team's design. The program culminates in a Launch Event on Saturday, June 9, facilitated by two-time space shuttle pilot/astronaut, Greg Johnson, CEO of the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space! There are six sessions, beginning this Saturday, March 10. This event is hosted at the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce. An annual membership fee of \$34 allows participation in this once in a lifetime experience – [register here](#) today!

Caring – about people,
about things, about life – is
an act of maturity.
Tracy McMillan

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)

Med Club Muffin Mondays – Every Monday Morning outside the Secondary Office (\$1.50 each)

Tie-Dyed T-Shirt Sales – Daily, 8:00-8:25 am, Elementary Wing Entrance

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 – March 21, April 18, May 16

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



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