



March 15, 2019  
Volume 19  
Issue 25

A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy  
Families

### Dates to remember

**Sunday, March 17** – Pancake Breakfast, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Small Gym (tickets sold in advance in either office)

**Monday & Tuesday, March 18 & 19** – Kindergarten Music Concerts, 3:00-3:30 pm, Small Gym

**Thursday, March 21** – Fill the Pantry Pajama Pants Day

**Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29** – Spring Break

### Choir concert tonight

Don't miss tonight's Secondary choir concert!



"Changing of the Seasons" is scheduled for **6:30 pm in the Big Gym**. This event is free and open to the public, so feel free to invite family and friends who might enjoy the

beautiful sounds of our Junior High and High School Choirs.

### Young volunteers at the Book Fair

A big thanks to GTA 5<sup>th</sup> graders **Sam Rice** and **Nate Dix**,



who helped out at our recent Scholastic Book Fair by running the checkout before and after school. According to Sam's mom, he couldn't wait to wake up and get to school by 7:30 am, and didn't want to leave at the end of the school day until

the Book Fair was closed! These boys did a wonderful job filling a need and got some great experience in the process – truly a win-win situation.

### A snow day message from the superintendent

Dear Families,

Currently, the rule on making up snow days reads that Grand Traverse Academy will need to extend the school year in order to meet the State of Michigan requirements of 180 school days in the year. Assuming no additional snow days, this would extend our year by one day as of right now, resulting in the final day for GTA students being **Thursday, June 13, 2019**. There is, however, legislation in the works to offer additional forgiven days that has not passed at this time. If the pending legislation passes and is applicable to GTA, we will communicate that to all of our families.

Peace,

Jim

### Elementary track registration open now

If your 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grader is interested in track & field, please know that **the deadline to register is March 20** and practice starts on April 1. Registration forms are available outside the athletics office (at the curved wall near the entrance to the Big Gym) or on the GTA website on the [Elementary Athletics](#) tab. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the blue box.

### Parent input requested in GTA strategic planning process

We are pleased to invite families to participate in our strategic planning process. The purpose of an organizational strategic plan is to communicate a long term strategy for the organization which articulates the vision, mission, values, and beliefs of the organization. Since Grand Traverse Academy was founded on the William Glasser Quality School Rubric, this will be used

to collect stakeholder input and guide the decision making processes that result from committee work. To complete the survey, go to [GTA Strategic Planning Survey](#). Your participation is greatly appreciated and will be used by the committee to guide our school in the future.

## Choice Theory: The Basics

### Ten Axioms

*contributed by Mindy Van Houzen*

An axiom is defined as a statement that is regarded as being established, accepted, or self-evidently true. For the next few weeks, we will be exploring the Ten Axioms of Choice Theory. The axioms help us to understand ourselves and each other.



**Axiom #1: The only person whose behavior we can control is our own.** We have all been disappointed by the behavior of another person. We may think, “If my daughter would stop doing this, I would be happy,” or, “If my brother started doing that, I would be happy.” If we constantly rely on the behavior of other people for our own happiness, we will be forever disappointed. This is because we cannot control the behavior of other people. We must take a look at what we contributed to a specific situation, and how we can change our own behavior, in order to have the outcome we desire. The next time you are disappointed by the behavior of another person think, “What can I do differently next time to have a different outcome?” This returns control of our happiness back to ourselves.

**Axiom #2: All we can give another person is information.** We are constantly receiving information from the world around us. We decide at every moment what we are going to do with the information and how we are going to respond to it. This is true when interacting with other people as well. When someone laughs at something we say, they are attempting to give us information. They may be trying to convey that they enjoy our company, or it may be that they don’t enjoy our company and they are laughing at us. If we are able to step back and think, “What information are they trying to give me right now?” we are less likely to be saddened or upset about their behavior and more likely to be able to receive the information. Remember, you cannot control them, but you can “hear” what they are saying.

**Axiom #3: All long-lasting psychological problems are relationship problems.** As you may remember, Choice Theory is all about relationships. We have a relationship with every person that we come into contact with, even the cashier at the grocery store. Some relationships are good, some are neutral and some are negative. If we experience long-lasting psychological problems, they are most likely the result of negative relationships that have gone unresolved. They can be from past or present relationships. For this reason, we work very hard to teach all of our students how to improve their connections with people.

### Save the date!

The second annual Mustang Stampede Dinner & Silent Auction is set for **Saturday, April 27 at Timberlee Hills from 6:00-8:00 pm**. The \$35 per person or \$60 per couple ticket price includes a luau-themed catered dinner by Chef John Hardy (made with recipes from his chef buddy on the mainland!), a cash bar and silent auction. Tickets are available in the athletics office, at the curved wall near the entrance to the Big Gym. Profits from the event will benefit Mustang Athletics – watch for more information coming soon.



### Donations accepted for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Grand Traverse Academy’s National Honor Society is proud to be participating once again with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to raise money to help fight blood cancer. LLS raises money to fund research as well as help patients pay for things such as transportation to and from the hospital. Last year, our school raised over \$2,500 for the cause! The group is collecting donations in two ways: Online donations and a coin drive. To donate online, students, parents, family and friends may visit the LLS [GTA page](#). Feel free to share this link on Facebook or other platforms to get the word out about the drive. You can even make donations in the name of a specific student or classroom and potentially earn them prizes! In addition, each elementary student has a box in which they can collect loose change throughout the drive. All funds, both online and coins, **MUST** be turned in no later than **Friday, May 17**. They are looking forward to this opportunity and thank you for helping to fight blood cancer.

## Fill the Pantry Pajama Pants Day next Thursday!

On Thursday, March 21, students and staff may wear pajama pants (no leggings) with their uniform shirts for a \$2 donation. All proceeds will go directly to GTA Cares to help feed hungry students. We hope you'll consider participating.



## High School course test-out information

High School students who wish to apply to test out of one or more courses are asked to complete the attached Test-Out Application Form (one per class) and return it to Mrs. Patrzik **no later than Friday, April 19**. Test-out sessions will take place on **Friday, May 10**. Please see the form for special details about Language Arts classes. Any questions may be directed to Mrs. Patrzik at [patrziks@mygta.us](mailto:patrziks@mygta.us).

## Pancake breakfast on Sunday

Join us for a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on **Sunday, March 17**, provided by Chris Cakes, Guinness World Record holding pancake flippers featured on the Food Network. Tickets (sold in 30-minute blocks from 9:30 am-12:30 pm) are \$7 each and available in advance from GTA International Travel Club members or in the Secondary Office. Breakfast includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, 3-4 sausage links and juice. Profits support the International Travel Club.



## Current students automatically enrolled for 2019-20 school year

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 in the fall, or will be transferring to GTA from another school, an enrollment application must be completed. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Truesdell at [truesdella@mygta.us](mailto:truesdella@mygta.us) or 932-6900.

## I was accepted!

Congratulations to **Hunter Delahanty**, who received a letter of acceptance from **Northwestern Michigan College** for Fall 2019.



## Mighty Mustangs Preschool enrolling now

Do you have a child ready for preschool, or know someone who does?



Register is open now for our play-based program for 3-5 year-olds, including dramatic and manipulative play, sensory experiences, creative arts, learning circle, Spanish, music, character education and outdoor fun!

Call (231) 932-6953 to register or for more information, or visit [www.mygta.us/preschool](http://www.mygta.us/preschool).

## Don't forget: Kindergarten music concerts next week

Our youngest musicians are preparing for concerts to showcase what they have learned in music class. "The Wild Things," based on the book, "Where the Wild Things Are," will take place in the Small Gym as follows:

**Monday, March 18**

3:00-3:30 pm – Ms. Myers, Ms. Ferguson

**Tuesday, March 19**

3:00-3:30 pm – Mr. Terrill, Ms. Wilder

Watch for more information about **Mrs. Conrad's Young Explorers** performance coming up in May.

## Elementary Spring Sing performances planned

It's time for our annual Spring Sing events, which will take place in the Small Gym. Be sure that your children arrive in their classrooms 15 minutes before their performance starts.

### 1st/2nd Grade: Disney – The Movies, the Music!

Come and enjoy some of your favorite Disney hits from The Mickey Mouse Club, The Jungle Book, Peter Pan, Mary Poppins and The Little Mermaid.



**Tuesday, April 16**

6:00 pm – Mrs. Adams, Ms. Mondry, Ms. West

7:00 pm – Mrs. Bohrer, Mrs. Flores, Mrs. Oster



### 3rd/4th Grade: Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

Join us as we answer the question of why mosquitoes buzz in people's ears! This African folk tale features eight songs and a story you won't soon forget.



**Thursday April 18, 2019**

6:00 pm: Mrs. Cherup, Mrs. Lazar, Mrs. Rammelkamp

7:00 pm: Mrs. Holfels, Ms. Kipke, Mr. Peplinski,

Mrs. Wilson

## Carpool etiquette reminders

We need your help in keeping our students safe on their



way into and out of the school building. Please remember the following, keeping in mind that there are pedestrians in the parking lots and crosswalks:

- Please observe the posted speed limit of 15 mph.
- Once your children have exited your car, please remain in the carpool lane until you are directed to leave.
- **Please use the carpool lanes when dropping off or picking up your Elementary children;** the parking lot is to be used by parents who are either walking their children into or out of the building, or those who are coming into school themselves.
- Be sure to use the crosswalk if you are walking into or out of the school.

- Secondary students may be dropped off or picked up in the north parking lot (Secondary entrance), **but please park in a space to do so – do not idle in the parking lot** – and be watchful of students, parents and staff who may be walking across the lot.
- Please do not use the walkway between the north parking lot and the driveway as an exit. It is for pedestrian use only.

In addition, please help protect our lawn and sprinkler heads by **parking in parking lots only** – not on the grass. During special events, if one lot appears to be full, there are usually plenty of vacant parking spaces in the other one.

Our carpool system is amazingly quick and efficient despite the size of our student population; with your cooperation, we can continue to keep it safe as well. Thank you!

## Father-Daughter Dance planned

Our semi-annual Father-Daughter Dance is set for

Friday, April 12, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Big Gym. GTA girls of all ages are invited to attend this semi-formal event with their father, step-father, grandfather, uncle, or special adult gentleman. The evening will

include an ice cream sundae bar and light refreshments, a DJ will provide lighthearted dancing music, and a professional photographer will be on hand to document the event! The cost is \$15 per father and one daughter or \$20 per father and daughters. The price includes a photo frame craft and one 4 x 6" keepsake photo per family. Please fill out the attached reservation form and return it with payment to the office no later than Monday, April 8. This has always been a sell-out event, so be sure to get your reservation in early! If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please email Maria Dean at [deanm@mygta.us](mailto:deanm@mygta.us).



## Last call for Lost & Found

With Spring Break approaching, it's time to check the Lost & Found (in the vestibule at the junction of the Elementary and Secondary Wings) for any items your children may be missing. Anything remaining after Thursday, March 21 (with the exception of embroidered uniform pieces) will be donated to the Goodwill.

## School Tools

Ms. Layne's Upper Elementary class business, School



Tools, sells a large variety of fun and unique school Supplies, such as assorted pencils, pencil grips, mechanical pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, highlighters, and bookmarks. Prices start at just 25¢, and most items are marked under \$1. School Tools is open before school every Thursday in Mrs. Layne's Pink 3 classroom from 7:50-8:25 am, and parents are always welcome to visit with their children. They look forward to seeing you there!

## GTA fundraiser offered

Trisha Lardie, a GTA mom and hairstylist for over 10 years, would like to support our school with a special offer: **During the month of March,** she will donate 20 percent of the cost of all hair services



provided to GTA family members to Grand Traverse Academy. Simply call Trisha at (231) 357-5610 to make an appointment and let her know that you'd like to participate in this fundraiser. Trisha is located at Salon Renewal, 739 Woodmere Avenue in Woodmere Commons near the Traverse Area District Library.

## Dual enrollment registration meetings continue

Students planning to dual enroll at Northwestern Michigan College for the Fall 2019 semester are required to attend a dual enrollment meeting offered here at GTA:

**Tuesday, March 19, 10:35 am, MPR 4**

**Thursday, April 18, 12:45 pm, Bronze 2**

The meetings will assist in applying to NMC as a dual enrolled student and go through the steps to gaining access for registration. All current sophomores and juniors have been emailed a registration form. If your child is interested in dual enrollment, be sure to ask if they have completed it. To qualify for dual enrollment, students must have a 3.3 cumulative GPA or pass the ACCUPLACER math test, administered by NMC.

## Best wishes to our GTA spellers!

We wish our best to County Spelling Bee finalists and GTA students **Sadie Brown-Bannon, Nicholas Morgan** and **Drew Pavwoski**, who will compete in the Regional Bee at the State Theatre in downtown Traverse City this **Sunday, March 17, at 11:00 am.**

## Students treat GTA staff to morning coffee

This week, our staff received a welcome email message



offering a "Thanks a Latte" coffee delivery Friday morning from Mrs. Craker's and Mrs. McLaughlin's students and helpers. And they even dressed in their leprechaun best in honor of St. Patrick's Day. What a nice surprise!

## New program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade 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. A registration form is attached and should be completed and **turned in to the office, with payment, by April 1.** Please note that the first practice will be held after Spring Break.



## 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. 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](mailto:gtafcpresident@gmail.com). 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** – *March 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** – *April 5 and May 3; 8:00-8:30 am, Elementary Lobby*