



May 3, 2019  
Volume 19  
Issue 31

A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy  
Families

**Dates to remember**

**Tuesday, May 7** – Project Graduation Fundraiser Night at La Seniorita (US-31 S), 11:00 am-11:00 pm

**Wednesday, May 8** – NHS Blood Drive, 9:00 am-2:30 pm, South Parking Lot

**Thursday, May 9** – GTA Cares Jeans Day

**Friday, May 10** – Art in the Park

**Saturday, May 11** – Together We Grow Children’s Expo, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

**Saturday, May 11** – Junior-Senior Prom, 8:00-11:00 pm, Cathedral Barns at Grand Traverse Commons

**Thursday, May 16** – Secondary Spring Band Concerts, 6:00-6:45 pm (Junior High) and 7:30-8:30 pm (High School), Big Gym

**Friday, May 17** –Secondary Choir Cabaret Concert, 6:30-8:30 pm, Big Gym

**Instrument Petting Zoo.** Parents of children currently in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades who are interested in joining the Beginning Band in the fall are invited to try out various band instruments at our annual Instrument Petting Zoo in the **Small Gym from 12:30-2:00 pm**. This event is planned in coordination with our Marshall Music instrument fittings on May 28 and 29 during school hours (see details below).

**Art Displays.** Be sure to check out all of the student art on display in the hallways. And don’t miss out on your chance to bid on several large paintings created by our talented Secondary art students as well!

**Children’s Expo returns!**

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 11**, when our second annual Together We Grow Children’s Expo returns to GTA. This fun-filled and informative event takes place from **10:00 am-1:00 pm**,



and will include a book walk, fire safety information, police canines, balloon animals, story time, a juggler, music & movement, a bounce house, science projects, art, door prizes and more! Parents will appreciate the many exhibitors featuring information about local children’s programs and activities, including the Dance Arts Academy, Traverse Area District Library, Board and Brush, Grand Traverse Athletic Club, the YMCA, Norte, Up North Kids, Piché Family Chiropractic, Newton’s Road, Kidding Around Yoga, Painting with a Twist, Traverse Area Community Sailing, Pit Spitters Baseball, and the GT Butterfly and Bug Zoo. The event is suggested for preschool and elementary children and their parents, and is free and open to the public. We hope you’ll join us – and invite a friend!

**Art in the Park planned**



Art in the Park, our annual celebration of the arts, takes place on **Friday, May 10**. Please join us as we celebrate music and art with a school-wide art show and elementary band performances!

**Elementary Band and Music Performances.** Students will perform in the Big Gym as follows:

Time	Classes
9:00 am	Thompson, Manning, Mroczkowski, Layne and Lazar, J.
11:00 am	Bonner, Windon, Dancer and Dix

## 2019-20 Beginning Band information

Students currently in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join the Beginning Band this fall! The following events are planned to facilitate this process: On **Friday, May 10 from 12:30-2:00 pm in the Small Gym**, we invite you to bring your 4th or 5th grader to try instruments at our annual Instrument Petting Zoo. Then on **Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28 and 29 (during school hours)**, professional “instrument fitters” will help students decide which instrument best suits them. Permission slips for this event are available in the Elementary office or outside the Elementary music room. Finally, on **Tuesday, September 10 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Big Gym**, we will host an instrument rental meeting. During this event, you will be able to either purchase or begin renting an instrument. Please see the attached letter for details and the instrument fitting permission slip, which should be returned by **Friday, May 24**.

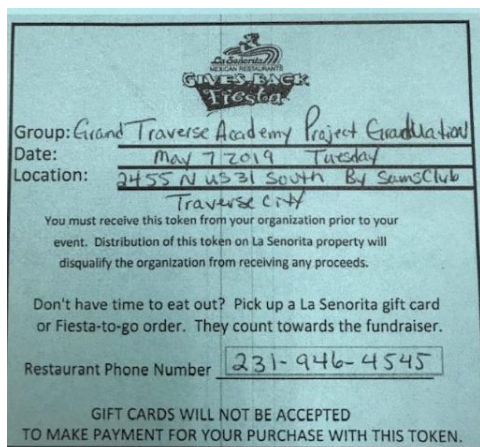
## GTA students earns writing prize



Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> grader **Norah VanWingerden** on winning the third place prize in the 2019 Michigan Charter Schools Middle School Essay Contest, out of approximately 100 entries! Norah received a check for \$25 and a certificate of recognition from the National Charter Schools Institute.

## Project Graduation fundraiser Tuesday

Mark your calendars for another chance to help make



our post-graduation party for the Class of 2019 a fun and memorable one: **On Tuesday, May 7 from 11:00 am-11:00 pm**, 20 percent of your purchase at La Senorita (US-31 S near Sam’s Club) will be donated to Project Graduation. Simply show the “token” above on your cell phone or present a paper copy, available in the Secondary Office,

when you place your order. The token can be used for dining in, take-out orders and gift card purchases.

## Jeans Day planned

The last Fill the Pantry Jeans Day of the school year is planned for **Thursday, May 9**. Students and staff may wear school-appropriate jeans with a uniform top in exchange for a donation of \$2 per student. Proceeds will go toward replenishing our student food pantry for the remainder of the year and stocking it in September in anticipation of 2019-20 needs. Your contributions are much appreciated.



## Father-Daughter Dance photos ready for pick-up



The photographs taken at the Father-Daughter Dance have been delivered and are ready for pickup. So that we are sure that the photos make it home and in beautiful condition, we ask that parents pick them up in the office at your convenience.

## Eighth grade field trip planned

At GTA, we are committed to encouraging our students to begin thinking about post-secondary plans as early as possible. Recently, our 7<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed a campus tour, presentations and lunch at Northwestern Michigan College. On **Tuesday, May 21**, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will travel to Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. The bus will leave promptly at 7:30 am (students should plan to arrive early) and return to GTA at approximately 4:30 pm. The cost is \$15 per student and partial scholarships may be available if needed. Students will get a feel for the university experience, learn about the programs offered at LSU, take a campus tour and have lunch in the student dining hall. Payment is due in the Secondary office **by Friday, May 17**.

## Blood drive next week

The GTA National Honor Society is planning a blood drive on **Wednesday, May 8 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm**. Blood donors must be age 16 or older. Look for the blood bus in the south parking lot. Your donation is appreciated and might just save a life!





## Substitute teachers needed

There is a shortage of substitute teachers in Michigan, and the Grand Traverse area is no exception. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher for GTA, please contact Mr. Coneset at [conesetj@mygta.us](mailto:conesetj@mygta.us). Applicants should have successfully completed at least 60 college credit hours to be considered.

## GTA celebrates College Signing Day

Wednesday, May 1 was National College Signing Day.



Grand Traverse Academy's Secondary School celebrated by inviting students who have already committed to



attending a college or university this fall to wear a shirt displaying the college's logo. Secondary teachers and staff joined in with a shirt from their alma mater. Here is just a sampling of the many schools represented!

## Summer School offered

Secondary students who receive less than a "C" in a class have the opportunity to earn credit by attending GTA's Credit Recovery Summer School. Two two-week sessions are available at a cost of \$175 each. Due to the time constraints of Summer School, students will need special permission to be eligible to recover math courses; consult with Mrs. Floering or Mrs. Patzrik for math credit information. Details and a **registration form, due back by May 17**, are attached. Please

contact Stephanie Patzrik, guidance counselor, at 932-6024 or [patziks@mygta.us](mailto:patziks@mygta.us) with any questions.

## Will your children be attending GTA next year?

Open Enrollment for 2019-20 has come to a close and our enrollment lottery drawing has taken place. As in the past, we do have wait lists in certain grades, with parents looking forward to the possibility of space opening up for their child. Once your children are enrolled at Grand Traverse Academy, you do not need to reapply for enrollment each year. However, as we begin planning for the upcoming school year, we would like to know if your children will be attending GTA in the fall. Each family was sent a short email questionnaire before Spring Break regarding their intent to return in September. We thank the many families who have already responded; if you have not yet completed it, we encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. If you need another questionnaire sent to you, please email Amy Truesdell at [truesdella@mygta.us](mailto:truesdella@mygta.us). We appreciate your participation and thank you for entrusting us with your children's education!

## One auction item remaining

A great time was had by all who attended our second



annual Mustang Stampede athletic department fundraiser dinner and silent auction last Saturday. Many wonderful auction items were contributed by the community, with just one remaining and available to the highest bidder! Centre ICE generously donated an ice skating party at their arena on Chartwell Drive in Traverse City. The gift certificate includes one-and-one-half hours of ice time, skate rentals for 50 people, and use of their community room for two hours, and is good

for one full year. The total package value is listed at \$545 but we will accept bids starting at \$100. This would make a great birthday party venue, a fun family outing with friends, or even a summer celebration for your children's classmates when school is out. Whatever you or your group pays goes directly to the support of our Mustang Athletics program, which benefits so many of our students. **Contact Shelley at 932-6977 with your best offer no later than May 17.**

### **GTA fundraising opportunity**

Have you received notification that the backflow prevention assembly on your home's water supply line needs its required periodic testing? GTA parent Jake Paddock, the Backflow Man, is offering his services as a fundraiser for our school. During the month of May, he will donate to Grand Traverse Academy 20 percent of the proceeds of backflow preventer testing provided for GTA families. His testing services average \$50-60 per home. You can reach Jake at (231) 645-6500.



### **Snow days to affect school calendar**

As a reminder, because of the number of snow days we experienced this winter, 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 further snow days, this will extend our year by one day, 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 is waiting for the governor's signature. If the pending legislation is approved and is applicable to GTA, we will communicate that to all of our families.

### **Ongoing events**

**Final Fill the Pantry Jeans Day – May 9**

**Elementary Pizza Days – 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

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

**Coffee & Cocoa Sales – Thursdays from 7:40-8:05 am**, \$1.50 per cup

**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