



January 12, 2018
Volume 18
Issue 19



A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy
Families



Dates to remember

Monday, January 8-Thursday, March 15 – *Open Enrollment Period*

Monday, January 15 – *MAP Testing Begins*

Monday, January 15 – *VEX Robotics Open House, 4:00-5:00 pm, Bronze 2*

Monday, January 15 – *Dessert with the Superintendent, 6:30-7:30 pm, Staff Gathering Room*

Tuesday, January 16 – *Enrollment Information Meeting, 6:00 pm, Staff Gathering Room*

Thursday, January 18 – *Elementary Math Night, 4:30-6:00 pm*

Friday, January 19 – *Junior High Girls' Sleepover (\$15 per person; sign up in the Secondary office)*

Friday, March 16 – *Enrollment Lottery Drawing*



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 for parents of prospective students are



scheduled as follows, and will take place in the Staff Gathering Room:

Tuesday, January 16 – 6:00 pm

Thursday, February 8 – 9:30 am

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.

GTA student makes semifinals in Write Michigan contest

Congratulations to GTA 6th grader **Ellie Kladder**,



daughter of Holly and Ben Kladder, who was selected as a semifinalist in the Write Michigan short story contest. She was notified this week that her 3,000 word "When the First Snow Falls" made the top 10 in the Youth division. What's more, Ellie was the only Youth entrant from our

area whose story was chosen for this honor! She has been invited to an awards ceremony in Grand Rapids on March 17. In addition to judges' first and second place awards in each division, there is a people's choice award open to the general public. Voting has begun and continues through January 31 – you may vote once per day for your favorite story in each division by visiting <http://writemichigan.org/vote.html>. Ellie's story can be found under the Youth tab. If high traffic volume affects the website's responsiveness, please try again. Best wishes, Ellie!

Welcome new staff

We hope you'll join us in extending a warm welcome to new staff members



Jamie Cullen and Kelly Wood. Jamie has joined our Special Services department as an

Elementary special education teacher. Kelly joins us in Lower Elementary, teaching 1st and 2nd grades.

VEX Robotics team plans open house

Grand Traverse Academy's VEX Robotics team will hold an open house featuring robots and root beer on **Monday, January 15, from 4:00-5:00 pm in Bronze 2.** Students (grades 5-12) and parents are invited to meet our team and learn what GTA robotics is all about. Robots will be on hand to try out, and the root beer floats are on us!

Register now for Traveling Classroom trip

Load, ready, FIRE! Junior High students and their



parents are invited to get "hands on" with a Civil War cannon this spring at Stones River National

Battlefield in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Can you load the cannon faster than your teammates?! The trip is scheduled for May 3-6, with a parent meeting on **Wednesday, January 31 at 6:00 pm in MPR 3.** Deposits are due soon! Interested students should see their Advisory teacher or Miss Polus for an informational packet.

Last chance to order Elementary yearbooks

Elementary students who did not order a yearbook along with their school pictures received a "last chance" envelope to take home to parents. If you would like to place an order, please return the envelope to the Elementary office, along with the \$10 payment, by **Friday, January 26.** Not sure if you ordered one? Please contact Timeless Image at 929-1010 or yearbook@timeless-image.com, as office staff do not have this information available to them.

Secondary exams scheduled

First semester exams for GTA Junior High & High School Students will take place the week of January 22. Complete schedules are attached to this newsletter.

Class ring orders taken

GTA freshmen are reminded that orders will be accepted for class rings on **Wednesday, January 17.** A representative from Jostens will be available during high school lunch at the tables outside the Secondary office.

Blue Lake scholarship opportunity

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp is a non-profit summer school of the arts, specializing in two-week programs for middle and high school students. A representative from Blue Lake will be available to audition our students on **Monday, February 15.** Interested students will attend a presentation about the camp at 8:00 am, followed by auditions, which may qualify them for scholarships toward tuition for the camp. If your 5th-12th grader is interested in attending Blue Lake and auditioning for a scholarship, please have them see Mrs. Floering for a permission slip and application. The deadline for returning both is **Friday, February 9.**

Family Council, Builders Club organize school supplies drive

The GTA Family Council, in conjunction with our Junior High Builders Club, is

**SCHOOL
SUPPLIES DRIVE**



planning 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. Look for containers at each entrance on the last three Fridays of February. 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!

Holiday Concert videos available

Just in time to warm this blustery weekend is a [compilation of the GTA Holiday Choir & Band Concerts](#).

Many thanks to GTA parent Brian Whitscell for the audio recording, student Henri Gage for the video, and Mr. and Mrs. Floering for putting it all together. Make some popcorn, curl up with your family and enjoy!

2018 Elementary choir update

Because of the significant growth in our Elementary choir program this year, we are creating two choirs! Upper Elementary (5th and 6th grade) choir members will have rehearsals on Fridays only. Fourth grade choir members will rehearse on Wednesdays only. **The time will change slightly for the 4th graders, with rehearsals beginning at 3:40 and ending at 4:20.** Parents are reminded to make note of these changes.

2018-19 Elementary teacher requests accepted

It may seem like the school year just got started, but plans are already underway for a great 2018-19! Elementary teacher requests for your child(ren) will be accepted during our Open Enrollment period, January 8-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.

Health Department screenings scheduled

The Grand Traverse County Health Department will administer free, routine vision tests here at school according to the following schedule:

Grades	Dates
1, 3, 5, 7, 9	February 12, 13, 14, 15

If you would like to have your child screened and they are not in one of the grades listed, please call the Elementary office at 995-0665 to make arrangements.

Printer cartridge fundraiser reminder

Our fundraiser through Northwoods Office Express runs through January 31. For each used printer cartridge* that your child collects, GTA will receive \$1. The classroom that collects the most cartridges will win a pizza party, and the student who collects the most will

win a Game Station (PS4 or Xbox), compliments of Northwoods Office Express. We have turned in 505 cartridges to date – let's see if we can reach 600 by the end of the month!

*Unfortunately, Epson brand and broken or damaged cartridges do not qualify, but will be recycled

take!
note!

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**

Ongoing events

Secondary Pizza Sales – Tuesdays during Junior High & High School Lunch (\$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 – January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16

Student-Run Credit Union – February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11 in Elementary Lobby (no make-ups for snow days); 8:00-8:30 am, Elementary Lobby

GTA Junior High

January 23-25, 2018

First Semester Exams

January 22:

Final Review All Classes, Regular Schedule

January 23:

Exam Day 1

8:05-8:50	Advisory
8:55-9:40	Independent Review in 1st hour
9:45-11:15	1st Hour Exam
11:20-12:00	8th Grade Lunch/7th Grade PE
12:05-12:45	7th Grade Lunch/8th Grade PE
12:50-1:35	Independent Review in 2nd hour
1:40-3:10	2nd Hour Exam
3:15-3:35	Advisory

January 24:

Exam Day 2

8:05-8:25	Advisory
8:30-8:50	Independent Review in 3rd hour
8:55-10:25	3rd Hour Exam
10:30-10:50	Independent Review in 4th hour
10:55-11:30	8th Grade Lunch/7th Grade PE
11:30-12:05	7th Grade Lunch/8th Grade PE
12:10-1:40	4th Hour Exam
1:45-2:05	Independent Review in 7th hour
2:05-3:35	7th Hour Exam

January 25

Exam Day 3

8:05-8:30	Advisory
8:35-8:50	Independent Review in 8th hour
8:55-10:25	8th Hour Exam
10:30-10:45	Independent Review in 9th hour
10:50-12:20	9th Hour Exam

GTA High School

January 23-25, 2018

First Semester Exams

January 22:

Final Review All Classes, Regular Schedule

January 23:

Exam Day 1

8:10-8:50 Advisory
8:55-9:40 Independent Review in 2nd hour
9:45-11:15 2nd Hour Exam
11:20-12:05 Independent Review in 3rd hour
12:05-1:05 Lunch
1:10-2:40 3rd Hour Exam
2:45-3:30 Advisory

January 24:

Exam Day 2

8:10-8:45 Advisory
8:50-9:05 Independent Review in 4th hour
9:05-10:35 4th Hour Exam
10:40-10:55 Independent Review in 5th hour
10:55-12:25 5th Hour Exam
12:25-1:25 Lunch & Study Time
1:30-3:00 6th Hour Exam
3:05-3:30 Advisory

January 25

Exam Day 3

8:10-8:25 Advisory
8:30-8:45 Independent Review in 7th hour
8:50-10:20 7th Hour Exam
10:25-10:40 Independent Review in 8th hour
10:45-12:15 8th Hour Exam

