

**Dates to remember**

**Friday, January 19** – *Junior High Girls' Sleepover*

**Tuesday-Thursday, January 22-25** – *Secondary First Semester Exams*

**Tuesday, January 23** – *Athletic Boosters Meeting, 6:00 pm, Athletic Office*

**Thursday, January 25** – *HALF DAY, SECONDARY ONLY*

**Friday, January 26** – *END OF SEMESTER, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS*

**Friday, January 26** – *Elementary Yearbook Orders Due*

**Tuesday, January 30** – *Parenting with Love & Logic Begins, 6:00-7:30 pm, Onyx 2 (must register in advance in the Secondary office, \$15/person or \$25/couple)*

**Wednesday, January 31** – *Traveling Classroom Student & Parent Meeting, 6:00 pm, MPR 3*

**Thursday, February 1** – *Choice Theory for Parents, 6:00-7:00 pm, Onyx 2 (sign up in the Secondary office, no fee)*

**Friday, February 9** – *Deadline for Blue Lake Audition Application/Permission Slips*

**Friday, February 9, 16 & 23** – *Family Council/Builders Club School Supplies Drive (look for boxes at entrances)*

**Thursday, March 15** – *Last Day for Elementary Teacher Requests*

**Friday, March 16** – *Enrollment Lottery Drawing*



**A message from Mr. Coneset**

Dear Grand Traverse Academy Families,

I wanted to take the time to let you know just how grateful the entire GTA team is that you share your children with us! We are back in full swing after the holiday recess and three snow days. On Monday, we had our first enrollment meeting for 2018-19 and I was excited to relate the story of Grand Traverse Academy with some new families. We celebrated Elementary Math Night on Thursday and we hope to include some photos of the wonderful time we had with your children in the next newsletter. Secondary students will take semester exams next week, and report cards will be coming out shortly thereafter for all students.

I do have some unfortunate news to share: Amy Rockwood is moving downstate and will be leaving her kindergarten teaching position at the semester end. Secondary science teacher Marc Alderman has accepted a position in another school district closer to his home and will also be leaving at the end of the semester. We will miss both of these professionals, but wish them well as they move on. Cindy DeYoung will return to teaching, taking over Amy's kindergarten classroom. We are in the process of finding a replacement for Mr. Alderman, and will have a professional in that classroom by the start of second semester.

Again, thank you so much for sharing your children with us! I am encouraged daily by your dedication to our school as we ensure that your children are safe, loved, and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics.

Peace,

Jim

## Secondary Students of the Month chosen

Congratulations to the following, who were chosen as December Students of the Month for their demonstration of the character trait of Initiative:

**Andrew Pavwoski**, grade 7, is the son of Brad Pavwoski and Julie Pavwoski. He plays baseball and basketball and enjoys all board games, especially chess. Andrew is involved in his church's Sunday school and volunteers with his family at the Father Fred Foundation. His immediate goals are to do well on next week's exams and maintain a 4.0 GPA. Long-term, Andrew wants to improve his chess game and go to college to become an engineer.



**Ella Froehlich**, grade 7, is the daughter of Annie and Jamie Callahan and Bill Froehlich. She is involved in the Builders Club (a junior high community service group), and plays the clarinet in band. Ella is currently on the basketball team and plans to play volleyball next fall. In her free time, she loves to read. When she gets to high school, Ella would like to stay in band and continue taking honors classes. After graduation, she wants to play in the marching band in college and become a veterinarian.



**Casey Smith**, grade 11, is the daughter of Cathy Smith and Dan Smith. She is active on the FIRST Robotics team and the "Can"struction project through the Career-Tech Center's Manufacturing Technology Academy (MTA), is a member of GTA's Key Club, and volunteers with our younger band members. Casey wants to attend the MTA again next year to assist with her goal of attending Michigan Technological University as a civil engineering major. She hopes to go straight into an engineering job right out of college so that she is able to support herself.



**Ethan Jones**, grade 10, is the son of Grace Hannon and Ryan Hannon. He likes to work out and says he wants to stay fit and strong. In his words, he wants to "become like Mr. Diola," one of his former teachers at GTA, being an inspiration to others and motivating them to find their life's path. Ethan also wants to be sure that his friends demonstrate good character. Ethan enjoys his job at a local sawmill but wants to do volunteer work in the community and attend college after high school.



## 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:

**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](mailto:truesdella@mygta.us) with enrollment questions or to arrange a tour.

## Local ski meet tonight

Mustang fans are invited to cheer on our co-op ski team at a unique Traverse City spectator ski event. Cross town rivals TC Central and West and Great North Alpine (GTA, St. Francis, Elk Rapids and Central Lake) will participate in the second annual Hans "Peppi" Teichner Cross Town Slalom in honor of local legend, founding father of Michigan high school alpine racing and US Ski Hall of Fame inductee Peppi Teichner. The event takes place **tonight, Friday, January 19 at Hickory Hills at 5:30 pm**. Parking will be available at Willow Hill Elementary starting at 4:30 pm, with free shuttle service

running to/from Hickory Hills before and after the race. We hope to see you there!

### Career-Tech Center selects GTA students for Rotary Club recognition

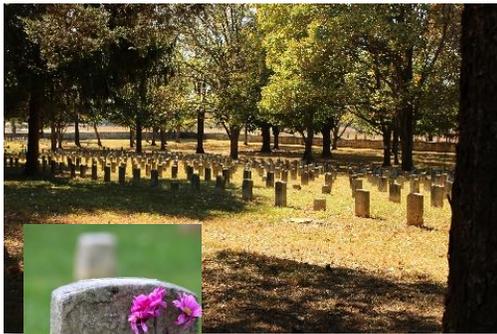
Congratulations to GTA seniors **McKinley Kreitner** and **Silas Kornexl**, who were chosen by the TBA Career-Tech Center as Rotary Students of the Month. McKinley is



enrolled in the Graphic Design & Promotional Media program, and Silas participates in Precision Machining Technology. They were recognized at this week's Rotary Club luncheon meeting at the Great Wolf Lodge.

### Volunteer opportunity for GTA Junior High students and their parents

In keeping with Grand Traverse Academy's theme of paying it forward, 7th and 8th graders, along with their parents, are invited to attend the trip to Stones



River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro, Tennessee this spring. For the past three years, GTA High

School students have traveled to the battlefield and assisted the grounds crew by scrubbing headstones at the National Cemetery. As part of the Traveling Classroom history and science trips offered to Junior High students, GTA has again been asked to participate in this opportunity to honor fallen soldiers of the Civil War. Deposits to reserve your space are due soon! Students should see their advisory teacher or Miss Polus for an informational packet. A student and parent meeting is planned for **Wednesday, January 31 at 6:00 pm in MPR 3.**

### Sign up now for *Parenting with Love & Logic*

*Parenting with Love & Logic*, the latest in our series of Parent Academy offerings, is scheduled to begin on **Tuesday, January 30**. This six-week course costs just \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Space is limited, so register today in the Secondary office to reserve your spot and pick up course materials! Classes meet from **6:00-7:30 pm in Onyx**

**2** on the following Tuesdays: **January 30, February 6, 13, 20 & 27, and March 6.**



### GTA teacher lands grant

Secondary special education teacher Carolyn Wilson has secured a \$500 MEEMIC Foundation grant for her classroom. Mrs. Wilson will use the funds to purchase alternative seating, such as balance balls, t-stools, stand-up or kneeling tables and a reading corner. Research shows that alternatives to traditional



seating that allow for movement can lead to improved student participation and behavior, better focus and attention, and higher academic performance. Thank you, Mrs. Wilson for your efforts in providing your students with an innovative and engaging learning environment!

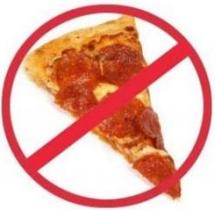
### Northwestern Michigan College dual enrollment update

The Spring 2018 semester at NMC started this week. We are very excited to once again offer Psychology 101: Introduction to Psychology, right here at GTA for our qualified 10th-12th graders. This is a three-credit Social Science college course taught by NMC instructor Lisa Blackford. Lisa taught PSY 101 at GTA once before and recently commented that she really enjoyed her last experience, and has been looking forward to another opportunity to work with our students. The class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:40-4:10 in Brown 2. This is a very convenient, safe, and encouraging way to provide college coursework and rigor to students as young as 14 years

old. In total, we have 32 high school students dual enrolled at NMC this semester, taking 120 credits. **Fall 2018 registration for current 10th and 11th graders opens on Wednesday, March 14.** Please keep an eye out for February informational meetings and workshops to assist students with the dual enrollment process.

### No pizza during exam week

Pizza sales will be suspended next **Tuesday, January 23**, as our sales staff will be taking exams. Please remind your Junior High and High School children to pack a lunch on that day. Pizza sales will resume the following Tuesday, January 30.



### 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.

### 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>.

### 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 next **Friday, January 26**. Not sure if you ordered one? Please contact Timeless Image at 929-1010 or [yearbook@timeless-image.com](mailto:yearbook@timeless-image.com), as office staff do not have this information available to them.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 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

**SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES DRIVE**



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!

## GTA choir receives certificate

The young ladies that compose our Junior High Choir



were treated by a visit this week from WKHQ radio personality Jimmy Hotkeys! He presented them with a framed certificate in recognition

of their making the list of finalists in the recent 106KHQ Holiday Choir Competition.

**Tie Dye Day for Secondary**  
 As a reminder, next Wednesday, January 24 is Tie Dye Day for Junior High and High School students. Tie dyed t-shirts may be worn with uniform pants and a GTA Spirit Band. Spirit Bands are still available in Silver 1 for \$8 each.

## 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** – 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