



January 26, 2018  
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A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy  
Families



**Dates to remember**

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

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

**Monday, January 29** – Revised Last Day of Secondary First Semester Exams (due to snow day)

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

**Thursday, February 1** – Choice Theory for Parents (cancelled this month only)

**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** – End of Open Enrollment Period/Last Day for Elementary Teacher Requests

**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:

**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.

**GTA students to participate in Battle of the Books, hold mock battle**

Battle of the Books is a 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade book-based quiz



competition, introduced here by local New York Times bestselling author and screenwriter Doug Stanton.

Students read incredible stories together and then compete against other teams to test their knowledge of the books’ content. The winning team will be rewarded with a “Victory VIP Tour” which includes a limo ride, pizza and a shopping spree for books! Our students held a practice battle last week, and will participate in the following official activities:

- Mock Battles: February 25 at Northwestern Michigan College
- Team Battle Day: March 10 at Northwestern Michigan College

- Championship & All-Team Finale: March 18 at the City Opera House

We wish them well in their competition!

### Sophomores pay it forward

Grand Traverse Academy 10<sup>th</sup> graders and their advisors



recognized that many younger siblings of Secondary students have some free time after their morning drop-off because of our staggered start



times. They are helping to fill that gap by reading and drawing with them during the first-hour advisory period. Thank you, sophomores, for “Paying It Forward” by providing constructive activities and forging a great relationship

between our older and younger students!

### AccessPoint accepting award nominations

AccessPoint Educational HR, our human resources management company, is accepting nominations for Teacher of the Semester and Staff Member of the Year. AccessPoint Educational HR values committed teachers and staff members who excel in their positions and are good examples in their community. The awards recognize teachers and non-administrative staff members for their dedication, professionalism, and for making a difference in the education of the students in their schools. From these nominations, a “Teacher of the Semester” will be selected in the months of January and May, and a “Staff Member of the Year” at the end of the school year. Selected recipients will receive a commemorative plaque and a cash award, and their school will receive a cash donation. Go to [www.apteam.com/teacher-of-the-semester](http://www.apteam.com/teacher-of-the-semester) for details and a nomination form.

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

Attention all Junior High parents and students! Just a



reminder that the parent & student meeting for those interested in going on the May trip to Stones River National Battlefield



is **next Wednesday, January 31 at 6:00 pm in MPR 3**. Details about the trip and information packets will be passed out at the meeting. The packets are also available from your child’s advisory teacher or Ms. Polus. Deposits are due the first week in February, so please plan on attending this meeting if your 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader is interested in traveling. Parents are also invited on this trip as well, so come join the fun!

### Parenting with Love & Logic cancelled

Because of an insufficient number of reservations for the Parent Academy course “Parenting with Love & Logic,” it has been cancelled. However, it’s not too late to join in on “Choice Theory for Parents,” which meets next on **Thursday, March 1**. For more information or to register, contact Mindy VanHouzen at 932-6960 or [vanhouzenm@mygta.us](mailto:vanhouzenm@mygta.us).

### Northwestern Michigan College dual enrollment reminder

Fall 2018 NMC dual enrollment registration for current 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Scholastic Book Fair coming, volunteers needed

Another great Scholastic Book Fair is planned for March 1-9 in the Small Gym. Parent volunteers are needed to supervise/assist shoppers and run the cash register during the school day and two evenings during parent-teacher conferences. If you can help, please visit the [Scholastic volunteer page](#) to sign up or contact Julianna Schuetze at [schuetzej@mygta.us](mailto:schuetzej@mygta.us) or 932-6941.

## 2018-19 Elementary teacher requests accepted

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>.

## 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**.

## Don't forget our upcoming 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 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!

## Mustang Athletics corner

- We recently received a "thank you" from the Munson Healthcare Foundation for our Pink Out volleyball game donation. Here's an excerpt: "...Your recent gift of \$858.23 supporting breast health is very important...Since 2013, your efforts have raised \$5,055.65, supporting health care in this community... Young people coming together to support vital services that make a true difference in the lives of patients and families is commendable." Thank you, GTA families – we couldn't have done it without you and your generosity!
- **HELP WANTED:** We are currently looking for a head varsity softball coach for the spring 2018 season, which begins on March 12. For details, [click here](#) or visit the GTA website and click on Athletics>Coaching Vacancies.



## 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 ends next week

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 over 500** cartridges so far – 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



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*

# Grand Traverse Academy Teacher Request Form

I would like to request the following teacher(s) for the next school year:

Name	Grade in Fall	Teacher Request First Choice	Teacher Request Second Choice
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Parent Signature

Date

*\*Please note that only forms with both a first and second choice can be considered\**

