



September 14, 2018  
Volume 19  
Issue 2

A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy  
Families

### Dates to remember

September 10-October 5 – MAP Testing Window

**Friday, September 14** – Elementary Choir Auditions, 12:00 pm-3:00 pm, Elementary Choir Room

**Friday, September 14** – Go Wild 4 Wildlife (Grades K-5), 12:00-1:15 pm, Pink 4

**Wednesday, September 19** – First Girl Scout Meeting of the Year, 4:00-5:00 pm, Staff Gathering Room (see attached information)

**Friday, September 21** – High School Laser Team Challenge, 12:30-10:00 pm, Alpena Armory

**Monday-Friday, September 24-28** – Homecoming Week

**Tuesday, September 25** – Junior High Harvest Dance, 4:00-6:00 pm

**Saturday, September 29** – High School Homecoming Dance, 8:00-11:00 pm

### Washington, DC trip informational meeting planned

What do the Gettysburg Battlefield, Baltimore’s National Aquarium and the Lincoln Memorial have in common? They are all attractions that students will visit when they embark on Grand Traverse Academy’s biannual trip to Washington, DC to tour iconic places in and around our nation’s capital. All **current** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (next year’s 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders) are eligible to attend. The trip will take place September 22-27, 2019. An informational meeting for interested students and their parents will be held on **Wednesday, September 19 at 5:45pm in Onyx 1**. We hope to see you there!

### Fill the Pantry Jeans Day participation appreciated

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the



generous outpouring of lunch items for our school food pantry at our Fill the Pantry Jeans Day on Thursday. Needy students and those who occasionally forget their lunch at home will benefit immensely from the energy and focus a mid-day meal will provide!

### School calendar available

If you didn’t make it to our Back-to-School Open House, you’ll want to print the 2018-19 Academic & Event Calendar attached to this newsletter so you’ll be in the loop on important dates and events! The calendar is also available on the GTA website under Parents>School Calendar PDF.



**The Kitchen** restaurant, providing “good food to go”, has graciously offered Grand Traverse Academy a fundraiser night on **Friday, October 12**. They’ll donate 30 percent of sales from 4:00-8:00 pm to our school. Of

course, the more they sell, the greater their donation. AND...October 12 is also a Parent-Teacher Conference day. Why not swing by The Kitchen after conferences and pick up dinner on your way home? This is a great opportunity to get a delicious meal, take a break from your own kitchen, and earn some cash for GTA. Please consider putting it on your calendar today!

## A note from the superintendent

Dear GTA Families,

The 2018-19 school year is off to a great start and we are looking forward to another fantastic year! We thank you for selecting Grand Traverse Academy as your school of choice and feel privileged to have you as part of this community. We continue to be committed to the mission and vision of our school, and the leadership team has kept what is best for all students at the very heart of our discussions.

This year, we are excited to welcome several energetic new staff members who have been trained on our mission and beliefs. A number of our returning staff members have received formal Choice Theory training from the William Glasser Institute in order to continue to grow as a staff community and deliver a quality experience for all students. And during the two weeks prior to the start of the school year, all staff attended Choice Theory professional development. This training has helped us all to focus on building community with each other, and with the families within this awesome community.

The new school year brings a great deal of promise for our school. We have a renewed commitment to Choice Theory, we continue to be focused on doing what is best for all students, and we are setting forth with a vision of integrity.

As always, thank you for sharing your children with us!

Peace,



Jim Coneset  
Superintendent

## GTA Outdoor Club offers courses

The GTA Outdoor Club, in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, is offering three courses for students—one for each general age level, from kindergarteners through high school seniors. Details about the courses and contact information for Mr. Lazar, Outdoor Club advisor, are attached. **Note that the first course, Go Wild 4 Wildlife, is full and registration is closed.** Space is currently available in the remaining two at this time, however.

## Silent auction, t-shirt sales to benefit Deb Buck

Some of our families may know that Deb Buck, GTA mom and staff member, is battling brain cancer. She has undergone surgery and is currently receiving treatment in Ann Arbor. More information can be found on the [Prayer Warriors for Debbie](#) Facebook page. The GTA volleyball team would like to help support Deb and her daughter Jennifer with t-shirt sales, as well as a silent auction at their homecoming game on **Friday, September 28**. If you'd like to order a t-shirt (orders due Monday, September 17), donate an auction item or assist in any way, contact Christine Scharpenberg at [scharpec@yahoo.com](mailto:scharpec@yahoo.com). Your attendance at the game and auction (wearing your t-shirt if you purchase one) on the 28<sup>th</sup> would be greatly appreciated.

## Pizza! Pizza!

GTA 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders are raising money to go to Mackinac Island and are selling Little Caesar's pizza kits through September 28 to help pay their way. Orders, with payment included, may be placed in Kim Wilson's classroom (Red 1) before the start of each school day. Orders will be ready for pickup on October 4 at carpool. For your convenience, orders may also be placed online at [www.pizzakit.com/fundraising-products?shop=1&f=353688&s=74103](http://www.pizzakit.com/fundraising-products?shop=1&f=353688&s=74103).



## Elementary Box Tops contest announced

Box Tops Are Popping Up All Around, and that's the name of this year's Box Tops for Education contest! Here's all you do: Look for the Box Tops for Education coupons on specially marked food and household products (go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for a list and more information), clip, save, and attach them to a collection sheet available in Elementary classrooms or the Elementary Office. Completed sheets should be turned in to your child's teacher. The classroom that collects the most box tops by the holiday recess in December will be treated to hot chocolate and donuts. The classroom that has collected the most by the end of the school year will be treated to a special surprised to be announced at a later date. Watch their progress on the bulletin board at the entrance to the Elementary wing. Our goal is to collect \$2,500 worth of Box Tops this year!

## Important Friday carpool reminder

As a reminder, **on Fridays only**, all Secondary students should be picked up at the north entrance off Three-Mile Road. Their Elementary siblings will go to a supervised classroom until Secondary dismissal, when they will be walked by a teacher to the north entrance to join them. This procedure is for Fridays only; thank you for your assistance in keeping your children safe, loved and learning!

## ATLAS Space Explorers to hold open house

On **Monday, September 24, from 6:00-8:00 pm**, the ATLAS Space Explorers will host an open house for prospective members at ATLAS Space Operations (10850 East Traverse Highway, Suite 3355). Students ages 13 and up are invited to learn more about the organization and consider joining the 2019 Space Explorer team. Members will work with professionals from ATLAS Space Operations to design, construct and launch a “cansat” mission into the stratosphere!

## Volunteer opportunity

Northwoods Office Express is participating in the Clean Up Green Up community recycling event on **Sunday, September 30 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm** at Traverse City West High School. High School student volunteers are invited to join them; two people per two-hour shift. Interested students are encouraged to contact [rebecca@NorthwoodsPrinters.com](mailto:rebecca@NorthwoodsPrinters.com) as soon as possible to sign up.

## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

Clip and place in the receptacle inside the Elementary entrance:



- ✓ Box Tops for Education Coupons (\$.10 per coupon clipped)
- ✓ Oleson's Cash Register Receipts (\$.01 for every dollar you spend)

While these amounts may not seem like a lot, they add up very quickly. Participation is easy, does not cost anything extra and is very much appreciated!