



September 21, 2018  
Volume 19  
Issue 3

A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy  
Families

**Dates to remember**

September 10-October 5 – MAP Testing Window

Saturday, September 22 – First Day of Fall

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



The Kitchen restaurant, providing “good food to go”, has graciously offered Grand Traverse Academy a fundraiser night on **Friday, October 12**, when 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. So 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!

**Secondary Homecoming Week events planned**

Next week, September 24-28, is Homecoming Week! Homecoming is an annual tradition and celebration meant to unite alumni, students, families and friends in order to create a stronger sense of school pride. The student senate class has worked hard to plan some fun events at the Secondary level throughout the week:

- **Dress-Up Days** – Each day of the week has a special dress-up theme, with the overall theme of “Alice in Wonderland.” Secondary students are encouraged to

dress as suggested below. Note that jeans and a spirit wear or uniform top may be worn with the purchase of a Spirit wristband. They are available before and after school from Ms. Burns for \$5 through today, or \$6 next week. Students will vote on a best-dressed winner each day!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dream Day	Tweedle Dee Day	Down the Rabbit Hole Day	Cheshire Cat Day	White Rabbit Day
Pajamas	Twins	Time Travel	Stripes	Whiteout
				

- **Pep Rallies with Games**
- **Tea Cup Scavenger Hunt**
- **Door Decorations** with an Alice in Wonderland motif
- **JH Harvest Dance** – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a dance party on Tuesday, September 25 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5 each.
- **Homecoming Volleyball Game** on Friday, September 28, with a whiteout or navy/gray attire theme
- **High School Homecoming Dance**, “An Evening in Wonderland” – 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders won’t want to miss this semi-formal/formal dance on Saturday, September 29. Tickets are \$10 in advance in the Secondary office (no later than noon on Friday).

**Silent auction 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. To help support Deb and her daughter Jennifer, the GTA volleyball team is hosting a silent auction at

their homecoming game on **Friday, September 28**. If you'd like to 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 special t-shirt if you purchased one) on the 28<sup>th</sup> will be greatly appreciated.

### **Builders Club seeking members**

Builders Club is a student-led community service



organization for 6th-8th grade students dedicated to making the school and community a better place in which to live. Grand Traverse Academy and

the Kiwanis Club of Traverse City sponsor the Builders Club. Any 6th-8th grade student interested in conducting community service and of good character is eligible to join this organization. Please feel welcome to attend a meeting just for the sake of "checking it out!" Meetings take place the first and third Thursdays of every month from 3:50-4:20 in MPR 4.

### **College, university, armed services representatives to visit GTA**

Juniors and seniors are invited to take the opportunity to meet with representatives from various colleges, universities and the armed services right here at school. This is a great way to learn about program offerings and ask questions during the post-secondary decision-making process. Students should look for sign-up sheets outside the Secondary office. Upcoming dates are as follows, with more to come!

#### **Monday, September 24**

Michigan Technological University, 11:00 am

#### **Tuesday, September 25**

Hope College, 10:30 am

### **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!

### **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 **Friday, 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).

### **Box Tops update**

The Box Tops bulletin board is up at the entrance to the Elementary wing and we have been adding popcorn kernels as the Box Tops pop in! Currently, Jill Manning's class is in the lead with 24 sheets turned in. One of her students worked all summer collecting Box Tops from friends and family members and turned in 19 sheets during the first week of school (each sheet of 50 Box Tops is worth \$5)! There are Box Tops expiring on November 1, so be sure to check your dates and turn in your sheets right away. We can make our \$2,500 goal!

### **Elementary pizza sales begin**

GEMS students are offering Elementary students the opportunity to purchase pizza for lunch approximately every other Thursday. Papa John's cheese or pepperoni slices are available from Papa John's for \$1.50 each. Order forms are handed out by teachers and should be returned to your child's teacher, along with payment, the Tuesday before pizza day. Orders will be delivered to classrooms on **October 4, November 1 & 15, December 6 & 20, January 24, February 7 & 21, March 7 & 21, April 11 & 25, and May 9 & 23**. Be sure to mark your calendars!

### **Important notice to parents**

Because we have a closed campus, all students (with the exception of Secondary students who drive themselves) must be picked up at the end of the school day (or Quality Care) by a parent, guardian, or other individual designated by the parent or guardian. Students may not walk home, to lessons, or the shopping center or restaurants across the street after school. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe, loved and learning!

## Send a Note to the Principal

Providing the best possible education and customer service is a priority at Grand Traverse Academy, so your feedback is important to us.



### Note to the Principal

Whether you're delighted with something you've seen or experienced, or have a suggestion for improvement, we want to hear from you. "Note to the Principal" forms and a box for submitting them are located inside both the Elementary and Secondary entrances. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Secondary yearbooks on sale now

GTA Junior High and High School students are encouraged to order their yearbooks now and save! Early bird pricing is \$45 until November 1, when the price goes up to \$50. Online orders are now available at [www.yearbookordercenter.com](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com).

## ATLAS Space Explorers holding 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.

## 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!

## GTA Outdoor Club offering 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.



Saturday, September 22 is the first day of fall! Also known as the autumnal equinox, this day gets its name from the Latin words for "equal" and "night" because the number of hours of day and night are roughly the same. Why do leaves change color in the fall? Reduced sunlight causes the green pigment, chlorophyll, to disappear, revealing the yellow and orange colors that were covered up. Bright reds and purples result from glucose trapped in the leaves after photosynthesis stops, which is colored by sunlight and cool nights. Browns come from waste materials left in the leaves. \*

\* [www.ScienceMadeSimple.com](http://www.ScienceMadeSimple.com)

# GTA Outdoor Club 2018-19



Are you curious about or do you have a passion for Michigan wildlife?  
Are you interested in working with wildlife or being a wildlife manager?  
Do you love the outdoors?

This opportunity may be for you! These courses are designed to educate tomorrow's wildlife managers, or just those who have a passion for the outdoors.

The following courses will be offered in conjunction with the DNR for various grade levels throughout the school year:

## Go Wild 4 Wildlife - Grades K-5

In this course, students will learn about species that live in Michigan and expand their appreciation for the outdoors. The course is five (subject to change) sessions: 9/14, 9/21, 10/5, 10/12, and 10/19. There is no cost for the class. Due to the feedback going back to the DNR, consistent attendance is important. The course will run from 12:30-2pm in the Pink Hall (Mr. Lazar room).

*Please sign up by September 12. This course will be capped at 20.*

**CLASS FULL**

## Wondrous Wetlands and Waterfowl - Grades 6-8

In this course, students will learn about species that live in Michigan wetlands, waterfowl, and expand their appreciation for this type of ecosystem. The course is seven (subject to change) sessions: 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, and 5/17. There is no cost for the class. Due to the feedback going back to the DNR, consistent attendance is important. The course will run from 12:30-2pm in the Pink Hall (Mr. Lazar room). *Please sign up by March 20. This course will be capped at 20.*

## Elk University - Grades 9-12

In this course, students will engage in population surveys, a mock community meeting, and public outreach. Appreciation and knowledge will be attained relating to Michigan Elk herd. The course is three (subject to change) sessions: 12/7, 12/14, and 1/11. There is no cost for the class. Due to the feedback going back to the DNR, consistent attendance is important. The course will run from 12:30-2pm in the Pink Hall (Mr. Lazar room). *Please sign up by December 3. This course will be capped at 20.*

Dates/times are subject to change if necessary.

**We will celebrate our learning from ALL courses with luncheon (potluck style) on June 7, 2019** - more information to follow!

If you're interested in signing up, please stop by Mr. Lazar room in the Pink Hall or send him an email ([lazar@mygtaus.com](mailto:lazar@mygtaus.com)).