



February 6, 2015
Volume 16
Issue 20



A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy
Families



Dates to remember

Saturday, February 7 – Frost Fest Dance, 8:00-11:00 pm, Small Gym

Wednesday, February 11 – Grand Traverse County Spelling Bee, 6:00-8:00 pm, Small Gym

Friday, February 13 – NHS Blood Drive, 12:30-3:30 pm, Small Gym

Tuesday-Thursday, February 17-19 – Health Department Hearing Screening (kindergarten and grades 2 & 4)

Friday, February 20 – Elementary Carnival, 5:00-7:00 pm

Friday, March 6 – Elementary Pajama Day

Kindergarten Movie Night, 6:00-8:00 pm, Multi-Purpose Room

classes and Secondary advisories. Gift certificates and other donated items from local businesses are always welcome. Do you own a business or work for an employer who may wish to donate services, merchandise, or a gift certificate? Donations go to a good cause and may be tax deductible! Items may be dropped off at the Secondary Office.



Save the date!

Our long-awaited Elementary Carnival is right around the corner: Mark your calendars for **Friday, February 20 from 5:00-7:00 pm**, when the Elementary wing will be full of animal-themed fun & games for Elementary students of all ages! You'll also find a bounce house, an obstacle course and plenty of carnival snacks. Make a night of it by joining us for dinner – an unlimited pizza buffet is \$5 per person or \$25 maximum per family.

Used uniform sale planned

GTA parents are so generous to donate outgrown uniforms to the office to lend to other students when necessary. But every now and then, our supply exceeds our needs and it's time to clean out the closets! Now is your chance to take advantage of some great deals: Used uniforms will be on sale at very reasonable prices on **Friday, February 20, from 11:00 am-2:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room**. Don't miss it!

Open enrollment period continues

Do you have family, friends or neighbors with school-aged children? We encourage you to take this opportunity to invite them to stop by and learn what Grand Traverse Academy has to offer—our best advertising is word of mouth from satisfied families! Detailed information is available on the GTA website by clicking on the Admissions tab at the top of the home page. Information meetings are scheduled as follows:

Mustang Madness update

Mustang Madness, our annual athletic fundraiser, is scheduled for **Friday, March 20** (note the new date, moved to before Spring Break instead of after!). The evening's events will include the traditional staff vs. Mustang

basketball team challenge and a silent auction. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success! Please contact Shelley Alejandro at alejandros@grandtraverseacademy.com if you are interested in helping out in any way.

The highlight of the silent auction is the wide assortment of gift baskets created by Elementary

Monday, **February 9**—2:00 pm
 Tuesday, **February 17**—6:00 pm (Secondary focus)
 Wednesday, **February 25**—9:30 am
 Thursday, **March 5**—6:00 pm
 Tuesday, **March 10**—2:00 pm
 Wednesday, **March 18**—6:00 pm
 Monday, **March 23**—9:00 am (Kindergarten focus)
 Tuesday, **April 7**—2:00 pm

GTA siblings receive enrollment preference

Did you know that we can give preference to siblings of current Grand Traverse Academy students in our enrollment process? If you are a parent of a GTA student and have another child you would like to enroll, **please complete the attached Sibling Enrollment Form and return it to the elementary office by Friday, April 9, 2015.** Enrollment questions may be directed to Cathy Marrow at marrowc@grandtraverseacademy.com or 932-6901.

Preschool accepting applications

Mighty Mustangs Preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2015-16 school year at this time. Our preschool is open to children ages three-five, with the option of choosing two, three or five mornings per week. Don't forget to recommend Mighty Mustangs to anyone looking for a quality preschool program! For more information, click on the Preschool tab on the GTA website homepage, or contact Sharon Swartz, director, at 932-6953 or swartzs@grandtraverseacademy.com. Watch for our ad in the *Traverse City Record Eagle's* "Baby Album."

Support our DC travelers

This September, a group of our current 7th and 8th graders will travel to Gettysburg National Military Park; Washington, DC; and Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. They have been holding several fundraisers to help defray the costs of the trip. Next **Tuesday-Friday, February 10-13**, they will be selling Little Caesar's® pizza kits from 3:30-4:00 pm at both the Elementary and Secondary entrances. Then on **Monday, February 16** from 5:00-9:00 pm, the Big Boy restaurant (3828 US-31 South, near Meijer) will donate 10 percent of their profits and 100 percent of the tips to the group. Parents and students will be volunteering as servers and table bussers. Please stop by, get a great meal and service and support our travelers!

Help us keep your children safe

Parents are asked to remind their elementary children that they are to go directly to either carpool or Quality Care (if advance arrangements have been made) after school is dismissed. This helps us to keep our students safe by knowing their whereabouts, and assists in quickly and efficiently locating them when parents arrive to pick them up. *Students are not to wait in the hallways or entrances for their parents.* Thank you!

Last call for Connector/Ambassador applications

Boys and girls in grade 5 are invited to apply for the position of GTA Connector/Ambassador. What does that entail? Connectors serve as positive role models for Elementary students, utilizing their character traits and caring habits. Ambassadors participate in greeting visitors, helping at school events, welcoming new students and participating in various leadership development activities. Applications and parent permission slips are **due by Monday, February 9** (extras are available in the Elementary office).

Mustang roundup

It's basketball and ski season! Mustang athletes compete in the following events next week and they love enthusiastic spectators:

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6-13	
FRI	JV/V Girls vs. Wolverine, 6:00/7:30 pm
MON	Ski Team Regionals, 10:00 am, Marquette JH Girls at Buckley, 4:30/5:30 pm
TUES	JV Boys vs. Cadillac Heritage Christian, 6:00 pm JV/V Girls at Ellsworth, 6:00/7:30 pm
WEDS	JV/V Girls at Northport, 6:00/7:30 pm
THURS	JH Girls at TC Christian, 4:30/5:30 pm JV/V Boys vs. Grace Baptist, 6:00/7:30 pm
FRI	JV/V Boys vs. TCBAAs at SEAS, 6:00/7:30 pm

Highlights of the week:

- February 2** – Varsity girls defeated TCBAAs
- February 4** – 7th grade girls and JV & Varsity boys defeated St. Mary of Lake Leelanau
- February 5** – Both the boys' and girls' ski teams took 2nd place overall at Nubs Nob; Taylor Hines came in 6th in the giant slalom, with Lauren Ferris capturing 19th in the slalom and 16th in the giant slalom.

Box Tops update

CURRENT TOTAL: \$1,930 / GOAL: \$5,000

We're at 39 percent of our Box Tops collection goal, but we're already halfway through the school year. Visit www.boxtopsforeducation.info for bonus offers. And did you know that you can find bonus offers on Meijer, Sam's Club and Walmart receipts? They can earn up to an additional 100 Box Tops. Keep on clipping; each Box Tops coupon is worth 10 cents!



"Drama Kids" is back!

Our Quality Care Extended Day Friday program is once again offering Drama Kids for students in grades 1-6. Drama Kids helps develop confidence-building skills through improvisation, mini-scripts, public speaking, character analysis, theatre games, and creative movement – culminating in a performance at the City Opera House. Rehearsals for the spring play begin on **Friday, February 13, from 12:30-1:30 pm** and run through May 15. The cost for the 14 Friday sessions is \$175, with half due at the first class and the balance due April 17. Learn more and register directly at www.DramaKids.com.

How to reach a GTA leader

The GTA leadership team is available to answer questions, help you with concerns (or take your compliments!). Please look for a leader on **Tuesdays in the north and south carpool lanes from 8:10-8:25 am**. Simply pull to the farthest forward spot and one of our principals will jump into your car for a quick chat. Of course, you may also call 995-0665 to talk to a school leader or contact them directly as follows:

Susan Dameron, Superintendent & Secondary Principal
damerons@grandtraverseacademy.com
(231) 534-4778

Kerri Ferris, Elementary Principal
ferrisk@grandtraverseacademy.com
(231) 218-0783

Cathy Marrow, Dean of Students
marrowc@grandtraverseacademy.com
(231) 218-2997

Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

Clip and place in the receptacle near the aquarium:

- ✓ Labels for Education UPCs
- ✓ Box Tops for Education Logos
- ✓ Spartan Cash for Labels UPCs
- ✓ Oleson's Cash Register Receipts

Drop off in your used printer cartridges in the Elementary Office

Donate your Coca-Cola products rewards points at www.mycokerewards.com

Mention GTA when you use the FotoZoomer kiosk at the Garfield Avenue UPS store

Family Fare Supermarket Cash for Class Weeks:

- ✓ February 15-21, 2015
- ✓ March 15-21

Ongoing events

Buy a Book for the Spanish Library - Visit [Biblioteca GTA](http://BibliotecaGTA) on Amazon.com to See the Wish List and Place an Order

High School Key Club Meetings – Every Other Tuesday, 7:40 am, Silver 3 (check the Silver Hall bulletin board for dates and events)

Secondary Student Council Meetings – Every Wednesday, 7:40 am, Onyx 1

Secondary Taco Sales – Every Thursday (\$1.50 each from the Taco House)

Secondary Pizza Sales – Every Tuesday (\$1.50 per slice from BC Pizza)

NHS Doughnut Sales – Every Friday (\$1.00 each), Multi-Purpose Room

Pack 25 Cub Scout Meetings – 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month during the School Year, 6:00 pm, Multi-Purpose Room

Elementary Student-Run Credit Union – February 13 & 27, March 13, April 10 & 24 and May 8 & 22, 7:50-8:30 am, Staff Gathering Room



A Tuition-Free School Created for Quality

Grand Traverse Academy Fall 2015 Sibling Enrollment Form

We are able to give preference to siblings of current Grand Traverse Academy students in our enrollment process. If you are a parent of a GTA student and have another child you would like to enroll at GTA, **please complete this form and return it to the Elementary office by Friday April 9, 2015.**

New Student's (Sibling's) Name

Grade in Fall 2015

Date of Birth

Special Services Received
(Gifted & Talented, ESL,
Speech, Resource Room,
PT, OT, etc.)

Currently Enrolled Student

School hours are as follows:

Kindergarten ...Monday-Thursday 8:20 am–3:30 pm, Friday 8:20 am-12:15 pm

ElementaryMonday-Thursday 8:30 am-3:50 pm, Friday 8:30 am-11:50 am

SecondaryMonday-Thursday 8:10 am-3:30 pm, Friday 8:10 am-12:15 pm

Parent Name

Address

Telephone

Email Address