

# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**Saturday, November 11** – *Downtown Traverse City Shop Your Community Day*

**Thursday, November 16** – *Fill the Pantry Jeans Day*

**Monday-Friday, November 20-24** – *No School for Students (Thanksgiving Break)*

## Mustang Roundup

**Volleyball.** The varsity team traveled to Glen Lake on November 1 to face off against Traverse City Christian School in district semifinals. They finished the season



with a record of 15-11-5. Congratulations, ladies, on a great season!

**Cross country.** Seven Mustang girls qualified for



Division 4 state finals at Michigan International Speedway on November 4. They finished at an impressive 13<sup>th</sup> place with one

of the youngest teams at the competition, with five underclassmen! Their times on a very tough course were as follows: **Paige Bell** 20:37, **Addison Patrzik** 21:43, **Madison Smith** 22:01, **Bailey Stephen** 22:22, **Stella York** 22:31, **Shenoah Collier** 22:50 and **Ava Butera** 23:20. Congratulations to both the girls' and boys' teams on a successful season!

## Remember to Shop Your Community tomorrow!

Grand Traverse Academy has been selected to



participate in the annual Downtown Traverse City Shop Your Community Day tomorrow, **Saturday, November 11**. With each purchase at a participating merchant, 15 percent of the sale will be donated to the eligible nonprofit of your choice. Support our downtown and our school while you get a head start on holiday shopping – it's that easy!

## Students of the Month selected

Congratulations to the following, who were named Students of the Month for November:

### Elementary – Character Trait of Respect

**Violet Tucker**, kindergarten, is the daughter of Christina and Victor Tucker. Mrs. Williams, her teacher, had this to say: *"Violet is such a respectful student! She always remembers to raise her hand, never interrupts others and always speaks kindly. She is respectful not only to her teachers, but also other students. She goes out of her way to be kind to others, always shares and talks out problems with her classmates in respectful ways. She is also respectful towards our school by picking up trash and helping keep our classroom tidy. She is a student who is a perfect example of what respect looks like!"*



**Samantha Wheeler**, grade 3, is the daughter of Whitney and Matthew Wheeler. According to her teacher, Mrs. Wilson, *"The word respect should be spelled S-a-m because she is such a positive role model for respect. Samantha happily and respectfully greets students and teachers when she enters the room. She shows eye contact, good manners,*



polite words and appropriate body language when talking to people. She notices when students need help and she quickly gets ice packs for others so they are not embarrassed. She also respectfully ties shoes for students who are not yet able to do it themselves. Her respectful behavior makes people in our room feel valued."

**Lars Blackmer**, grade 4, is the son of Grace and Cory Blackmer. His teacher, Mrs. Cherup, says, "If all students were like Lars, the world would be a better place and, of course, full of respect! Lars is a leader of excellence in character, especially respect. He always uses words with others that make them feel valued< such as "thank you," "you're welcome," "I would love to," "do you need any help?" and "you've got this." Lars respects his teachers by following expectations and giving his best effort in all he does. He shows respect to his peers by seeing the good in all of them. He respects his parents by following their lead and walking away from situations that he knows they would not approve of. Lars is often seen smiling and is known to bring smiles to others!"



#### Secondary – Character Trait of Integrity

**Wyatt House**, grade 7, is the son of Charlotte House and Trevor House. Ms. Stearman says, "Wyatt always strives to do the right thing--he is constantly seeking to be a wonderful friend to others and to uphold his principles. Wyatt is always kind and is a very trustworthy individual. In class and in advisory, Wyatt constantly lends a helping hand."



**Kialie Wise**, grade 11, is the daughter of Elizabeth Bouthillier and Bruce Wise. According to Mrs. Wenger, "Kialie will always do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. She loves others without expecting anything in return. She follows through on promises she makes. She is honest. She will admit when she is wrong. And she always has the courage to stick up for what she believes in. Kialie is the definition of high integrity. She has a heart of gold. I love how she takes the time to help others



around her do their math homework (even if it means she has to take some of her work home). I love that she is kind with her words and always takes the time to lift people up. And I love how she always does the right thing even when she doesn't think someone is watching. Kialie is simply amazing."

#### GTA Cares offers help for the holidays

GTA Cares is a school-run organization designed to assist our families in helping each other in meaningful ways. We hold several Jeans Days during the school year to help keep our student lunch pantry full for students in need. We also collect holiday meal items and gifts to fulfill the wishes of our GTA families in need. An email was sent to all families last week, along with a link to a [participation form](#). Whether you need assistance or would like to contribute, please complete and submit the form as soon as possible. Questions about the program may be directed to [GTACares@mygta.us](mailto:GTACares@mygta.us).



#### Build a teddy, watch *Paddington*!

The GTA travel club is holding a Build-a-Teddy Workshop and movie event on **Saturday, December 16**. Each plush pal is 14" tall and comes ready to stuff for \$20. After participants stuff their new friend, they can take it to the movie (*Paddington*) that afternoon. Popcorn and other concessions will be available for sale. See the attached flyer for available styles and complete this [order form](#) by November 20 so that we can order your specific friend! Please email Mr. Kinney at [kinneyr@mygta.us](mailto:kinneyr@mygta.us) with questions or for more info.



#### Yearbook prices increase next weekend!

Orders are being taken now for the 2023-24 Secondary yearbook. This full-color, hardcover edition is \$45 through **November 17** – the price increases the longer you wait. It's \$55 from November 18-March 31 and \$65 starting April 1. There are three easy ways to order:



- Visit [www.yearbookordercenter.com](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com) and use school number 12952.
- Stop by the Secondary Office for order processing with either a check or credit card.
- Call the Secondary Office to place an order with a credit card.

## GTA students earn varsity letter in soccer

Congratulations to **Henry Hartl** and **Rhys Hadfield** on



receiving their varsity letter in soccer from Traverse City Christian School at the co-op teams' season-end banquet this week. Nice going!

## Pop-up Mustang spirit wear gift store closing soon!



Just in time for holiday shopping, a virtual [Mustang gift store](#) is available *for a limited time only*. Find Mustang spirit wear clothing and accessories in youth and adult sizes, as well as other items, such as thermal tumblers, blankets, a bleacher seat and more! Follow the link above to place your order. **But don't wait, as the store closes on Wednesday, November 15.**

## Junior class plans bake sale

GTA 11<sup>th</sup> graders are holding a bake sale fund raiser on



**Wednesday, November 15.** The sale is open to Secondary students and will take place during lunch, from 11:40-12:40 in the Multipurpose Room.

## Student absences and late arrivals

If your child will be absent from school or arriving late, please contact the appropriate office at your earliest convenience:

☎ Secondary: [hsoffice@mygta.us](mailto:hsoffice@mygta.us) or (231) 932-6038  
 ☎ Elementary: [elementaryoffice@mygta.us](mailto:elementaryoffice@mygta.us) or (231) 995-0665

## College acceptance



Congratulations to GTA senior **Dana Bacon**, who has received a letter of acceptance for fall 2024 from Western Michigan University. Dana currently has an interest in studying biology once she graduates from high school.

Hats off to

**Matthew Kinney**, who has been accepted to attend Cornerstone University in the fall of 2024. He is interested in pursuing a career in mechanical engineering.



## Coffee's on!

Mr. Thomas' 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is selling coffee from the



Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities, field trips and resources this year! The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available

in Regular and Decaffeinated, Whole Bean and Ground. An order form is attached and is **due on Friday, December 8.** Orders will be delivered the week of December 11. Prices are \$13 for Regular and \$14 for Decaf. Mr. Thomas' students thank you for your support!

## Fill the Pantry Jeans Day planned

Did you know that GTA has a food pantry? Its purpose is to provide lunches for less fortunate students (and those who occasionally forget to bring their school lunch). It's time to fill it up for



the quarter and we welcome your help. On **Thursday, November 16**, we're holding our second of five Fill the Pantry Jeans Days for all students and staff. School-appropriate jeans (no holes, rips or leggings style) may be worn with uniform tops in exchange for a \$2 per person donation. We thank you for your assistance, which is always voluntary.

## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

**Box Tops for Education.** Box Tops for Education offers a way to support our school with the purchase of many grocery items: The [Box Tops mobile app](#) allows you to



scan store receipts, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our earnings online. No more clipping, taping onto collection sheets and dropping them off at school!

**Save your Oleson's receipts, please!** Do you shop at Oleson's Food Markets? Did you know that your cash register receipts are worth money for our school? With the Oleson's



Community Share Program, you earn "Community Share Points" each time you shop (with the exception of alcohol purchases). One point equals one cent, so if you spend \$100 on groceries, you've earned \$1 for GTA! These points add up quickly. It's easy to participate – simply save your receipts and deposit them in the box just to the right of the Elementary Office door.

## Ongoing events

**Secondary Bagel Sales** – *Wednesdays from 7:30-8:00 am in the MPR; \$2.00 each*

**Secondary Doughnut Sales** – *Fridays from 7:40-8:00 am in MPR 1 & 2; \$2.00 each*

**Secondary Bake Sales** – *November 15 & 29, December 13, January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, May 1, 15 & 29*

**Elementary Pizza Days** – *Every other Wednesday, as follows: November 15, December 6 & 20, January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20, April 10 & 24 and May 8 & 22 (order and pay by the preceding Monday using forms sent home on off weeks), \$2.00 per slice of pepperoni or cheese*

**Secondary Pizza Days** – *Every Thursday (order and pay by Tuesdays using forms provided in Advisory classrooms), \$1.50 per slice of cheese or pepperoni*



# TEDDY BEAR WORKSHOP KITS

Hand Stuff a Furry Friend • Place a Wish Star Inside • Name It • Love It FUR-ever



Aster The Leopard



Chilly Snowman



Ocean Bear



Ruby Reindeer



Candy Cane Reindeer



Wonder Mooser



Eska Husky



Snow Monster



Icee Polar Bear



Waddles Penguin



Snap Gingerbread Dog



Sugar Plum Bear



Red and White Striped  
Hat and Scarf



Custom Printed Tee Shirt

Kits Include: 14" Unstuffed Friend, Stuffing, Wish-Star, Birth Certificate and Buddy Bag

Teacher' s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child' s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Selection(s) \_\_\_1\_\_\_2\_\_\_3\_\_\_4\_\_\_5\_\_\_6\_\_\_7\_\_\_8\_\_\_9\_\_\_10\_\_\_11\_\_\_12\_\_\_13\_\_\_14\_\_\_



Mr. Thomas' Upper Elementary class is selling coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities, field trips, and resources this year! The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in Regular and Decaffeinated, Whole Bean and Ground. Orders are due on Friday, Dec 8th and will be delivered the following week. Prices are \$13 for Regular and \$14 for Decaf. Thank you for your support!

	Whole Bean	Ground
Bakery Blend	_____	_____
Bakery Blend Decaf	_____	_____
GTA Blend	_____	_____
GTA Blend Decaf	_____	_____
French Roast	_____	_____
French Roast Decaf	_____	_____
Hazelnut	_____	_____
Hazelnut Decaf	_____	_____
Caramel & Pralines	_____	_____
Caramel & Pralines Decaf	_____	_____
Chocolate Cherry Festival	_____	_____
Chocolate Cherry Festival Decaf	_____	_____

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Teacher \_\_\_\_\_