

# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**Saturday, December 2** – *Robotics Tournament, Bellaire High School, 9:30 am*

**Thursday, December 7** – *Secondary Bands Holiday Concert, JH 6:30 pm/HS 7:30 pm, Big Gym*

**Friday, December 8** – *Elementary & Secondary Choirs Holiday Concert, 6:00-7:00 pm, Big Gym*

**Thursday, December 14** – *Elementary Band Concert, 6:30-7:00 pm, Big Gym*

**Saturday, December 16** – *Build-a-Teddy Workshop and Movie, 2:30-5:30 pm, MPR 3 & 4 (preregistration closed)*

## Holiday concerts planned



It's that time of year, and our Secondary bands and choirs have some beautiful songs of the season in store for you!

On **Thursday, December 7**, our Secondary bands will perform as follows:

**6:30 pm** – Junior High (Cadet and Concert Bands)

**7:30 pm** – High School (Varsity and Symphony Winds Bands)

On **Friday, December 8**, the Elementary Choir starts the evening at **6:00 pm**, followed by the Mustang and Chamber Choirs.

Both concerts take place in the Big Gym and are free and open to the public. Why not invite a friend or family member to join you?

## Mustang Robotics competes on Saturday

Coach Annie Callahan and four Mustang Robotics teams will travel to Bellaire High School this Saturday, December 2 to the Bellaire VRC Over Under

competition. Skills Challenges begin at 9:30 am, a Teamwork Challenge begins at 10:30 am and Finals begin at 2:30 pm. The event will be live streamed on twitch at <https://www.twitch.tv/bellaierobotics/>. Best wishes to the following:

**Team 7567E Live Wire Fluffy Unicorns:** Eli Willoughby, Emerson Slepicka, Chase Worm, and Nathan Kinney

**Team 7567B Silicon Stallions:** Ryilan Shimko, Leo Mulholland, Henry Courtright, Beckett Dennis, Ian Weaver

**Team 7567F We the People:** Evan Smith, Jacob Hasse, Michael Wildner, Caden Arden, Araya John, Caden Meyer

**Team 7567C Valiant Bots:** Olivia Peltier, Eva Send, Kaiden Mahardan, Owen Hoffman, Wyatt House, Connor Kirkman, Aden Casteel

## Snow Day procedures

Grand Traverse Academy follows the decisions of the



Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) for weather-related closings and will close school (including Preschool and

Quality Care) when TCAPS closes. When school is closed due to weather, elementary and junior high extracurricular activities will be cancelled and decisions about any scheduled high school events will be made and communicated by 12:00 noon. Parents will be notified via email and voicemail messages prior to 6:00 am when possible, and information will be posted on the GTA website and Facebook page. School closings are also announced on local television and radio stations.

Please be aware that TCAPS may close from time to time for non-weather-related reasons. *Grand Traverse Academy will be open unless TCAPS is closed due to*

*weather*. GTA families will always be notified by the means listed above if we will be closed for the day.

## GTA students named Students of the Quarter at Career Tech

The following GTA students were celebrated for first quarter accomplishments at the Northwest Education Services Career Tech center:



### Ethan Lawrence – Web & App Development

“Ethan is always very polite and has an excellent attendance record. He spends time outside of class working on his personal website so that he can develop his web design skills. He also asks good questions and actively participates in class discussions. Thanks for your extra effort, Ethan!”

### Clay Weaver – Robotics & Automation

“Clay often times stays after class to finish work. He is always anxious to help whenever he can. Great attitude!”

### Marcus Rose – Electrical Occupations

“Marcus is always willing to help out classmates and take on extra projects.”

### Maran Edgren – Business Careers

“Maran has displayed excellent work ethic. She produces quality work and has done a good job meeting assignment deadlines. Maran displays a positive attitude and is kind to others.”

## GTA water bottles for sale

Did you know that one of the many benefits of drinking plain water is the improvement of our memory and attention? That’s why we encourage students to bring a water bottle to school each day. Right now, 27-ounce easy-grip water bottles with the GTA logo are available for sale in either office for just \$3 each. They would make a great holiday gift or stocking stuffer. And parents may want one, too, to promote our school wherever you go!



## Lost & Found reminder

Students and parents are reminded that anything remaining in the Lost & Found (with the exception of embroidered uniform pieces and library books) prior to our Holiday Break in December will be donated to charity. Please have students check for missing water bottles, books, lunch boxes, jackets, boots, mittens, etc. We have accumulated quite a collection!

## 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

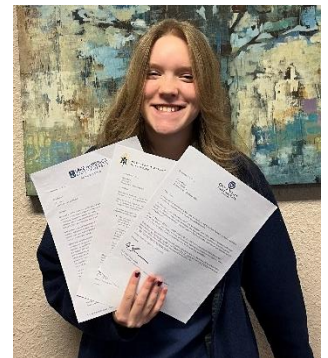
☎ Elementary: [elementaryoffice@mygta.us](mailto:elementaryoffice@mygta.us) or (231) 995-0665

## College acceptance



Congratulations to GTA senior **Cassidy Worm**, who has received a letter of acceptance for fall 2024 from Northwestern Michigan College.

Hats off to **Dana Bacon**, who has been accepted to attend Lake Superior State University, Northern Michigan University and Grand Valley State University.



## Family Council events planned



The GTA Family Council is busy planning some fun, family-friendly events you won’t want to miss! Be sure to mark your calendars for the following:

**Friday, January 12** – Join your GTA friends at a FREE Movie Night in the Big Gym at 6:00 pm. Kids may wear their pajamas and bring a blanket and pillow or camp

chair. Concessions will be available for sale. Movie title to be determined soon!

**Thursday, January 18** – It's a half day for all students due to the semester end, so why not drive over to Centre Ice Arena for a skating party from 1:00-3:00 pm. Ice time and skate rentals are free of charge but donations to Family Council for future activities will be accepted.

### **Kiwanis Ski & Snowboard School is back!**

Now in its 55<sup>th</sup> year, the Kiwanis Club of Traverse City is hosting their Ski & Snowboard School at Mt. Holiday Ski & Recreation Area. The program is open to students in grades K-9 and begins on January 9, weather permitting. The cost is just \$45 per three-day session and rental equipment, if needed, is \$15. See the attached flyer for details and registration information or contact Mt. Holiday at [skischool@mtholiday.org](mailto:skischool@mtholiday.org) with questions.

### **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** – *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: 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*



THE KIWANIS

# Ski & Snowboard School



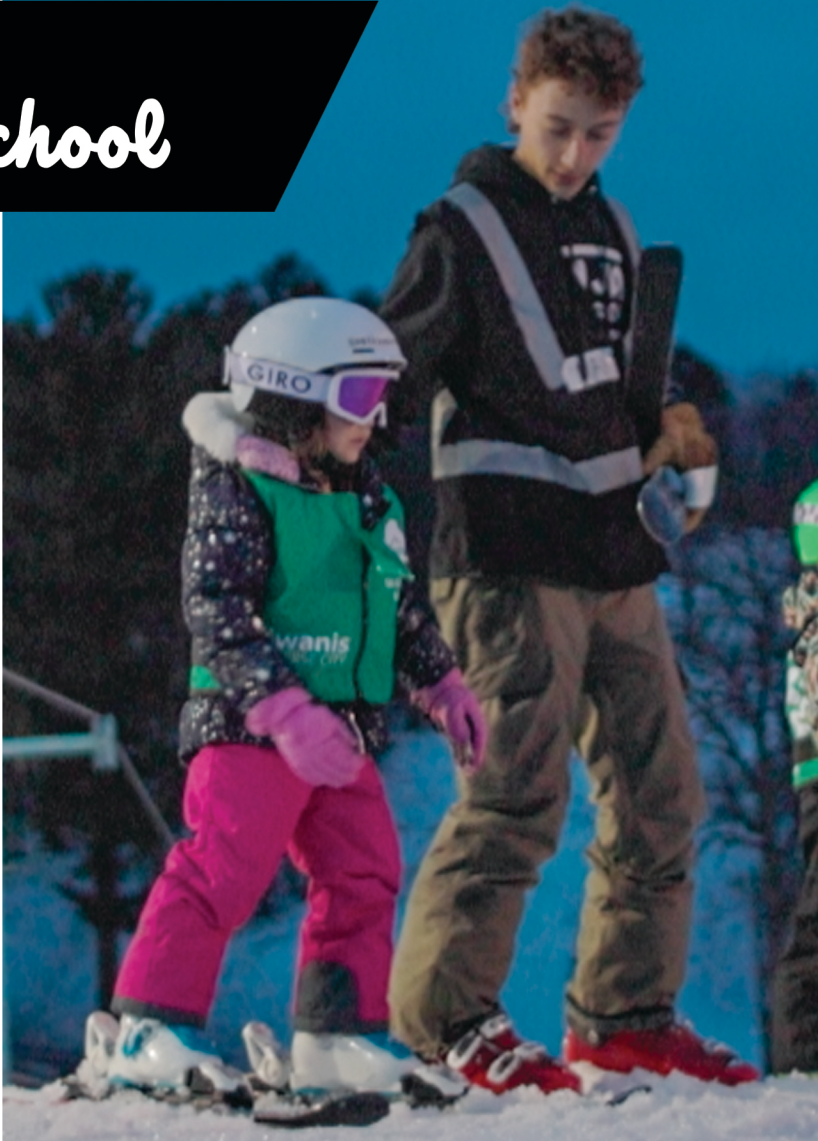
LESSONS HELD AT  
MT. HOLIDAY SKI & RECREATION AREA,  
3100 HOLIDAY RD,  
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49686



IDEAL FOR BEGINNERS

TAILORED INSTRUCTION

POSITIVE IMPACT



SKI LESSONS	GRADES	SNOWBOARD LESSONS	GRADES
January 9, 10, 11	K-1	January 9, 10, 11	1-2
January 16, 17, 18	K-1	January 16, 17, 18	1-2
January 23, 24, 25	2-8	January 23, 24, 25	3-9
January 30, 31, Feb 1	2-8	January 30, 31, Feb 1	3-9
February 6, 7, 8	2-8	February 6, 7, 8	3-9
February 13, 14, 15	2-8	February 13, 14, 15	3-9
February 20, 21, 22	k-1	February 20, 21, 22	1-2

\*Lessons are scheduled weather permitting.

Cost of the Lessons are: **\$45 per 3-Day Session**  
Cost of Rental Equipment (if needed) **\$15**

Questions regarding Ski & Snowboard School  
**email Mt. Holiday at:** [skischool@mtholiday.org](mailto:skischool@mtholiday.org)

**To bring/wear:** a warm coat, gloves, a hat, and a helmet (if available).  
A helmet will be provided if you don't have one for your child.

**REGISTER @** [WWW.MT-HOLIDAY.COM/SKI-AND-SNOWBOARDING/](http://WWW.MT-HOLIDAY.COM/SKI-AND-SNOWBOARDING/)

*\*Payment is collected during online registration using a credit or debit card.*

*\*In the event of weather-related cancellations, we offer the option of rescheduling.  
If rescheduling is not feasible, a refund will be provided.*

