

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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

Thursday, December 14 – *TADL Bookmobile Day (Elementary)*

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 (registration required)*

Thursday, December 21 – *Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lecture Hall*

Friday, December 22-Tuesday, January 2 – *NO SCHOOL, Holiday Break*

Students of the Month selected

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

Elementary – Responsibility

Sophia Schwartz, kindergarten, is the daughter of Angelica and Jesse Schwartz. According to Ms. Hartwig, “Sophia comes to school every day prepared to learn! She always remembers to make her milk choice, put her folder away and start her morning work right away. She keeps her locker clean and tidy without needing to be reminded to do so. She knows when she needs to return something to me from her folder and always gives it to me right away. She is a very responsible, diligent worker, as she stays focused and does her best quality work regardless of distractions. She is a true leader by example in our classroom and I am so proud of her!”



Aria Arnold, grade 1, is the daughter of Tia and Tyler Arnold. Mrs. Keenan says “Aria goes out of her way to be responsible at school! She relays important information between home and school, she brings all required materials to and from school, and she is capable of looking out for herself and others. I can always count on Aria to worry



about herself, but she is always able and willing to help out a friend in need! I am so proud of the way that she demonstrates responsibility in the first grade hallway each and every day!”

Levi Hansen, grade 5, is the son of Lorien and Alan Hansen. Mrs. Wingfield says that



“Levi is an amazing student. He comes to school ready to learn and is always eager to do his best. Levi makes positive choices throughout the day and has excellent time management. He is also aware of his fellow peers and lends a helping hand when needed. Being responsible at school requires many things and Levi does a fantastic job!”

Secondary – Caring

Norah Vermilyea, grade 7, is the daughter of Stacey and Ben Vermilyea. Ms. Bloomquist commented that “Norah is an exceptionally caring friend and dedicated student. Continually prioritizing the needs of others over her own, she extends kindness to her classmates and consistently offers assistance to those around her. In addition to her selfless nature, Norah's compassion is a guiding light in both her friendships and academics. Whether it's offering a lending hand during challenging times or uplifting her



peers, Norah fosters a supportive and inclusive environment.”

Nathaniel Dix, grade 10, is the son of Amy and Dallas



Dix. Mrs. Callahan states that “It is a privilege to begin my day with Nate. He is one of the first students to arrive in the morning and settles in to get to work. He is consistently considerate of his peers, selfless in his actions (often taking the time to discuss Pokemon characters with my kindergarten-

aged son before school) and compassionate. Adults and students alike gravitate toward Nate; he is conversational, respectful and very kind. Thank you, Nate, for your work ethic in Chemistry and your willingness to go above and beyond for your classmates. You are truly one of the most caring people I know.”

Elementary Robotics Club forming

GTA’s Upper Elementary Robotics Club is starting soon! This year, **5th and 6th graders** will use the engineering design process to design, build, test, modify, and complete a VEX robot. Club Meetings will be held after school in Purple 1 on **Wednesdays, from January 10-March 20**. Because students will be working with a team and building on skills each week, attendance at each session is important. **Students will need to be picked up at South Carpool promptly at 4:45** or be registered for Quality Care. The Club is **limited to 30 students** and **costs \$20**, which includes a Robotics Club t-shirt. **Call the Elementary Office at (231) 995-0665 during school hours to register** your 5th or 6th grader. Payment may be made with a credit card via phone or in person, or with cash or check (payable to Grand Traverse Academy with Elementary Robotics Club in the memo line) in the Elementary Office. If cost is an issue, please let the office know when you call to register.

Don’t miss another basketball (or volleyball) game!

Don’t forget that you or your family members can



THE PLACE FOR
**HIGH
SCHOOL
SPORTS**

watch GTA indoor sports live-streamed to the device of your choice. In cooperation with the NFHS

Network streaming service, you can purchase a monthly or yearly subscription and watch recorded games live

wherever you are. The cost is \$11.99 per month (less than admission to one game for three people) or \$79.99 per year, which is a 45 percent savings over the monthly rate. Subscribe now and save 25 percent on the first month! To redeem, [create an account](#), and then go to the [Subscribe](#) page. Regular rates apply after the first month.

Concert streaming available

Although we encourage families to attend school concerts in person for the best experience, we are excited to be trying out a live streaming option for band and choir concerts with the NFHS Network, our new athletic event broadcast tool. If you have purchased a subscription (see previous story), simply log in, choose Grand Traverse Academy in the search bar at the upper left and click the LIVE tab under the Search Results. The concert will begin broadcasting at the scheduled time. The good news is that **non-athletic events may be viewed live without a paid subscription!** If you or a family member or friend would like to watch either concert from home, visit the [NFHS Network](#) and follow these steps:

1. Complete the Create Your Account section.
2. Type Grand Traverse Academy in the search box at the upper left of the screen.
3. The concert will begin broadcasting at the scheduled time.

We hope you'll bear with us during these first live stream events and excuse any unforeseen audio or video issues that may occur. We look forward to utilizing this network for other non-athletic events in the future.

GTA water bottles for sale

Did you know that staying hydrated with plain water



improves our memory and attention as well as concentration, stamina and sleep quality? 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!

Mustang Robotics team advances to state and national events

Our four Mustang Robotics teams had a successful



competition last Saturday at the Bellaire VRC Over Under competition. They all did a great job, with Team 7567E (Live Wire Fluffy Unicorns) placing 2nd in Robot Skills. They also earned an invitation to compete in the Kettering University Michigan VRC HS State Championship Over Under event on Friday-Saturday, February 23-24, 2024. What's more, they have been invited to participate in the CREATE U.S. Open Robotics Championship in Council Bluffs, Iowa on March 14-16, 2024! Congratulations to all, and best wishes to Emerson, Eli, Nathan and Chase.

Mustang Roundup

The following athletic events are scheduled for this weekend:



Saturday, December 9 – Elementary Girls' Basketball: Team #9-9:45 and 10:30 am, Team #1-12:00 and 12:45 pm, Team #20-12:45 and 1:30 pm, Glen Lake

For a full schedule of athletic events by season and sport, visit the [Practice & Event Schedules webpage](#) and click on the sport and grade level of your choice. Our Mustangs love to have fans to support and cheer them on!

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!

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 (no camp chairs, please, to protect the gym floor!). 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.

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 or (231) 932-6038

Elementary: elementaryoffice@mygta.us
or (231) 995-0665

Kiwanis Ski & Snowboard School is back!

Now in its 55th 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 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.

HISTORY TRIVIA



Who was the first US president to visit all 50 of the United States?

Richard Nixon

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, March 6, April 17, May 15

Elementary Pizza Days – Every other Wednesday, as follows: December 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



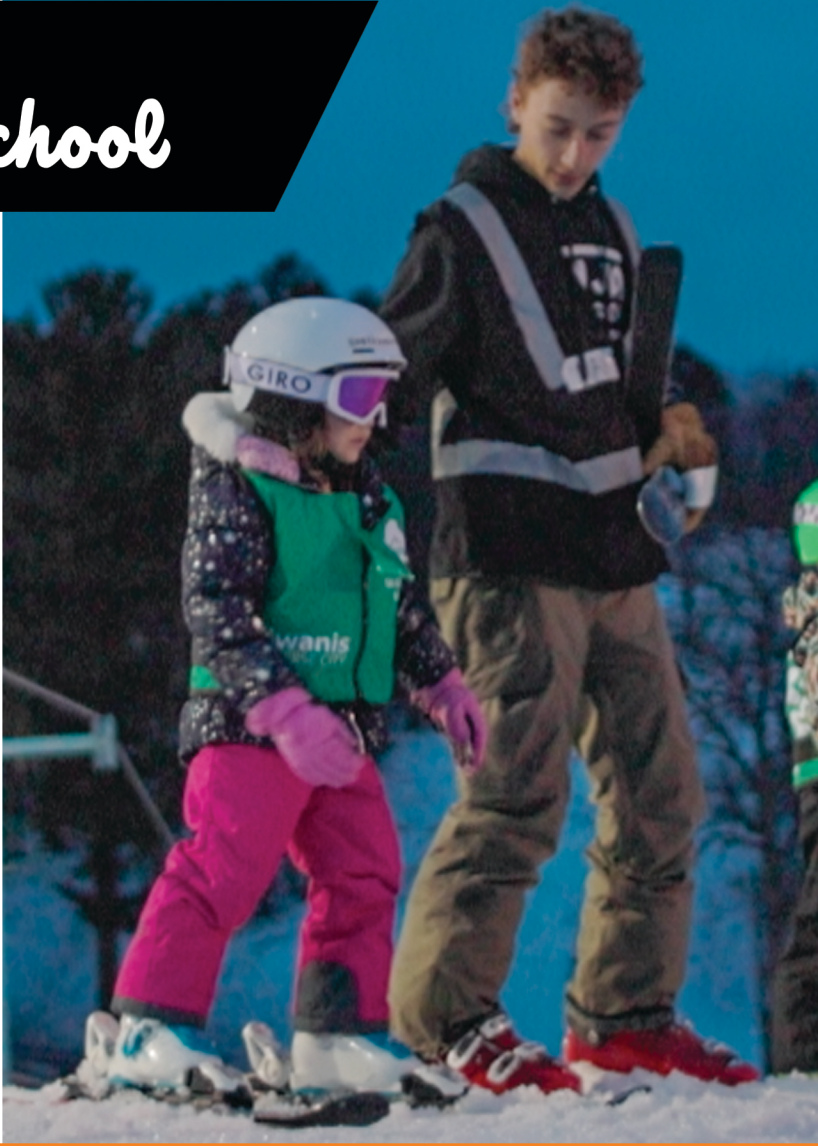
LESSONS HELD AT
MT. HOLIDAY SKI & RECREATION AREA,
3100 HOLIDAY RD,
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49686



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

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/

**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.*

