

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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*

Thursday, December 21 – *Schoolwide Holiday/Ugly Sweater Day*

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

Wednesday, January 3 – *Open Enrollment Period Begins*

Enrollment Information Meetings planned

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2024-25 school year **begins on Wednesday, January 3 and continues through Thursday, March 7**. Several Enrollment Information Meetings are planned, as shown below. Each includes a brief presentation in the Lecture Hall, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities.

Enrollment Information Meetings		
Day	Date	Time
Thursday	January 4	9:30-10:30 am
Wednesday	January 10	9:30-10:30 am
Tuesday	January 23	6:00-7:00 pm
Monday	January 29	6:00-7:00 pm
Tuesday	February 6	9:30-10:30 am
Monday	February 12	6:00-7:00 pm
Thursday	February 22	9:30-10:30 am
Wednesday	February 28	6:00-7:00 pm
Thursday	February 29	9:30-10:30 am
Monday	March 4	10:00-11:00 am
Tuesday	March 5	6:00-7:00 pm
Wednesday	March 6	9:30-10:30 am

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.

GTA offers online reporting tool

If you or your child have a safety concern at school, the best and most effective way to address it is to contact a school official. If you are more comfortable sharing information anonymously, please remember that Grand Traverse Academy has joined forces with STOPit Solutions. This online reporting tool is designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse and other at-risk behaviors and actions before they escalate. STOPit provides students and parents access to the STOPit mobile app to make anonymous reports that alert school administrators to issues of concern. Privacy of student data is always a priority. We encourage all parents to read the attached flyer, view the [STOPit training video](#) and download the app with your family today from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). Questions may be directed to [Mrs. VanHouzen](#), [Mrs. Patrzik](#) or [Mrs. Floering](#).

Last chance for Lost & Found

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!

Schoolwide holiday/ugly sweater day next week!

Just for fun, GTA will observe International Ugly Sweater Day (officially the third Friday of December), on **Thursday, December 21.**



All students and staff may wear their favorite school-appropriate “ugly” or holiday sweater or shirt with uniform pants. Don’t

have one? Get creative and decorate your own t-shirt or second hand sweater with a glue gun and tinsel, garland, ornaments, buttons, felt, ribbon, etc. found at the dollar store!



I’ve been accepted!

Congratulations to GTA senior **Peter Mimnaugh**, who received a letter of acceptance from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids for Fall 2024.

Holiday Band Concert video available

What a beautiful concert our Secondary bands put on last Thursday, under the direction of Mr. Floering. In case you missed it or want to share it with family members or friends, you may [view it here](#). Enjoy!

Secondary exams scheduled

First semester exams for junior high and high school students are scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday, January 16-18. Note that Wednesday and Thursday will be half days for Secondary students and there will be no school for any students on Friday, January 19. A complete exam schedule is attached.

Powerlifting Club t-shirts available for sale

The GTA Powerlifting Club is selling t-shirts with the Powerlifting logo for \$20 each. Club members wear them at competitions and they may be worn as spirit wear on Fridays by all students and staff. All profits will be used for the purchase of weight room equipment. An order form is attached and must be turned in to Sr. O’Neill (Profé) no later than Tuesday, December 19. Orders cannot be accepted after the Holiday Break.



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

Don’t forget that you or your family members can 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.

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 Roundup

The following athletic events are scheduled for this weekend:



Friday, December 15 – Varsity BB vs. Cadillac Heritage Christian at Home: 5:30 pm Girls, 7:00 pm Boys. It’s Holiday Spirit Night, so wear red, white and green and have a chance to meet Mighty the Mustang!

Saturday, December 16 – Elementary Girls’ BB Tournaments: [See Details Here](#)

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!

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

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.



Animal Trivia

Where are a cricket's ears located?

On its legs

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 – 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

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.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to announce that our school has enrolled with STOPit, by STOPit Solutions

STOPit is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features.

Specifically, the program educates students to:

- Recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously
- Report it anonymously through STOPit App/Web or 24/7 Incident Response Center
- Submit photo or video evidence (App/Web Only)
- Alert designated administrators to issues and risks early, before they escalate

No personal information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a requester voluntarily includes it within the content of a request or message.

Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the [Student Privacy Pledge](#), spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association. You may review STOPit's [Privacy Policy](#) for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

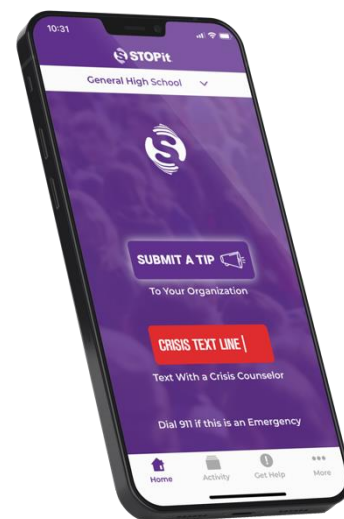
Students have the power to help put an end to harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or are otherwise in need of assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder, school communities both online and off.

We encourage you to download the STOPit app and search for your students' school using the directory. You can privately ask for help for your student, family, others you care about, or even acquaintances who appear to need help. For a video on how to use STOPit, go to: [Student Training Video](#).

Together, we can make sure everyone in our community gets what they need to thrive. Thank you!

Mindy VanHouzen

Dean of Students



GTA Secondary School Exams

January 16 -18, 2024

First Semester Exams

Tuesday, January 16: Exam Review/Some Exams Begin

Most classes will review, and some will begin their exam. Teachers have communicated the schedule with students.

Wednesday, January 17: Half Day of Exams (secondary students only)

High School

8:05-9:00	1st Hour
9:05-10:00	2nd Hour
10:05-11:00	3rd Hour
11:05-12:05	4th Hour

Junior High

8:05-9:05	1st Hour
9:10-10:10	2nd Hour
10:15-11:15	3rd Hour
11:20-12:10	Advisory/Exam Make-up

Thursday, January 18: Half Day of Exams

High School

8:05-8:35	Advisory
8:40-9:40	7th Hour
9:45-10:45	8th Hour
10:50-11:50	9th Hour

Junior High

8:05-8:40	Advisory
8:45-9:45	7th Hour
9:50-10:50	8th Hour
10:55-11:55	9th Hour

January 19: No School for any students

Semester Break- Enjoy and be safe!
See you on Monday, January 22nd.

*In the event of a snow day on Wednesday, Wednesday's exams will take place on Monday, January 22nd during regular class time.

**In the event of a snow day on Thursday, Thursday's exams will take place on Monday during regular class time. In the unlikely event of a snow day on Wednesday *and* Thursday, Wednesday exams will be Monday and Thursday's exams will be Tuesday.

2023-2024 GTA Powerlifting Club T- Shirt Order Form

Cost: \$20

Name: _____ Size _____

Advisory _____



*Please turn in to Profe's room by Tuesday, December 19th

2023-2024 GTA Powerlifting Club T- Shirt Order Form

Cost: \$20

Name: _____ Size _____

Advisory _____



*Please turn in to Profe's room by Tuesday, December 19th

THE KIWANIS

Ski & Snowboard School



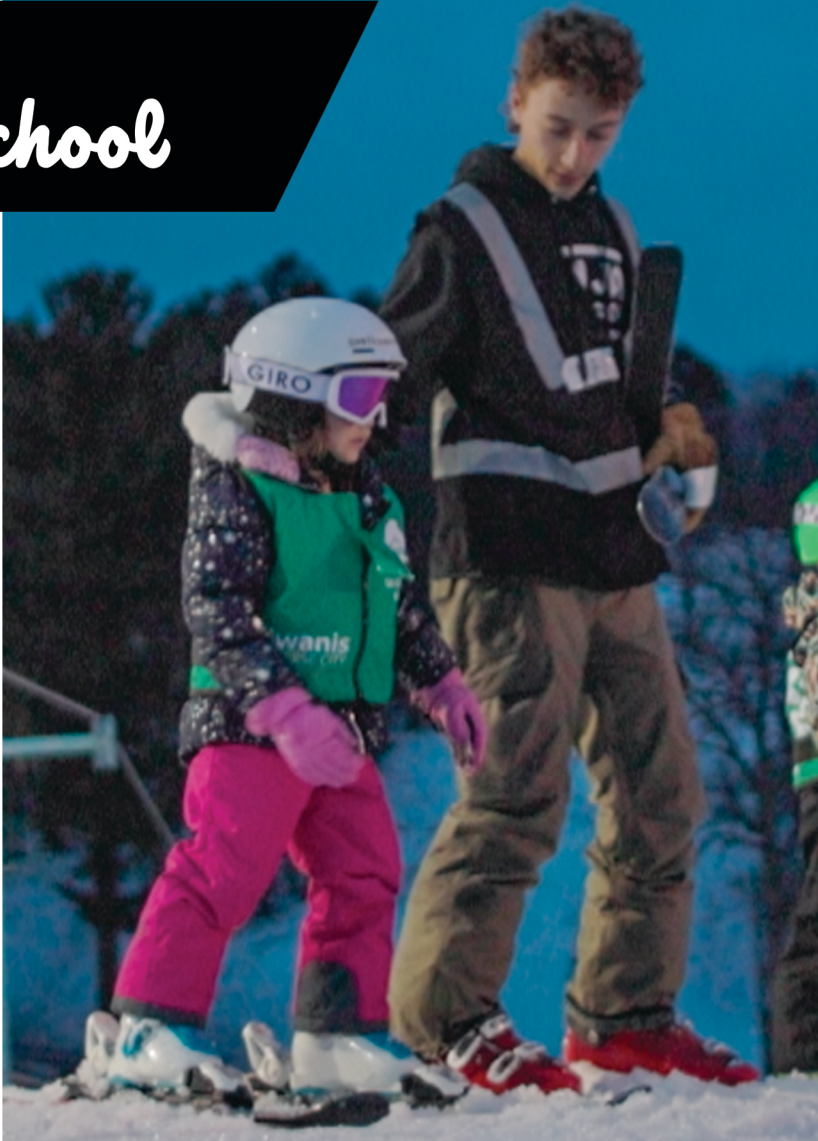
LESSONS HELD AT
MT. HOLIDAY SKI & RECREATION AREA,
3100 HOLIDAY RD,
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49686



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.*

