

# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**Saturday, October 29** – Family Council Fall Family Fun Day, Jacob's Farm, 2:00 pm (see attached)

**Friday, November 4** – NHS Blood Drive, 9:30 am-2:00 pm, South Parking Lot in the Blood Bus (see attached)

**Thursday, November 10** – Family Council Meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm, MPR 3 & 4

**Friday, November 11** – Veterans Day Celebration (see details below)

## New board member elected

Congratulations to **Brittan DeYoung**, who was named to



the Grand Traverse Academy Board of Directors at last week's meeting. Brittan is a 2009 graduate of Grand Traverse Academy. He and his wife, Joanna (GTA class of 2011), have two daughters, both of whom attend GTA – one in kindergarten and one in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and a

son who is not yet in school. Brittan is also a graduate of Northwestern Michigan College and Ferris State University, where he majored in computer information technology. He is employed at Hagerty as a DevOps Architect. Welcome, Brittan!

## Mustang roundup

**Volleyball.** Tuesday was a big night for volleyball, as it



was the last home game of the season, Parent Night, Senior Night and the annual Pink Out game in support of breast cancer awareness. Shown above with their



parents are seniors **Mackaila Scott, Jurnie Shimko, Ella Froehlich, Norah VanWingerden and Jocelyn Stephen**. A big thanks to Team Elmer's for providing hats for the team!

**Secondary basketball.** Secondary basketball season is coming soon! Girls begin on November 14 (paperwork and payment due on the 11<sup>th</sup>) and boys on November 21 (paperwork and payment due on the 18<sup>th</sup>). Game dates may be found on the [GTA website](#), with practice dates to be completed soon. Interested students should sign up on the sheet outside the Secondary Office. Required paperwork for parent signatures is available there as well, and students have been emailed this information. As a reminder, student athletes must have a physical dated after April 15, 2022 in order to participate. Any questions may be directed to Mrs. Alejandro, athletic director, at [alejandros@mygta.us](mailto:alejandros@mygta.us).

**Elementary basketball.** GTA is partnering with the YMCA for Elementary boys' and girls' basketball. It is a friendly atmosphere that promotes learning how to play the game while providing a variety of competition opportunities without traveling out of Traverse City. The season runs from January 14 to February 18, 2023. Practices will take place once or twice a week with games on Saturdays at the YMCA. We are looking for elementary coaches; if you are interested, please contact Mrs. Alejandro at [alejandros@mygta.us](mailto:alejandros@mygta.us). Parents of interested players should sign them up for [Elementary basketball with GTA](#), which will allow us to create GTA teams and know how many we will need. In addition, please sign up for the January session with [YMCA basketball](#). The only fee for Elementary basketball is the YMCA cost, payable on their registration page.

## Veterans Day celebration planned, veterans invited

Are you a veteran of the United States armed forces?



Do you have a relative who has served our country in the military? Veterans in our GTA family and extended family are invited to a

special school-wide Veterans Day observance on **Friday, November 11**. Refreshments will be served to our guests starting at 8:00 am in the Big Gym, followed by a Secondary assembly at 8:15 with speakers and a choir performance. It will culminate with an Elementary student parade at approximately 8:50 in the south circle drive, led by a fire engine, and featuring a Coast Guard flyover. Mark your calendars – you won't want to miss this very special program.

## Sabres soccer finishes season

It was a season to be proud of for our Sabres co-op soccer team, but they fell to Elk Rapids 2-1 in the last two minutes of district finals last Friday.

Congratulations to our players, freshmen **Carson Vermilyea** and **Sam McMann**, and a big thanks to GTA's **Justin Lazar**, assistant coach. They appreciated all the support from our families throughout the season!

## After-school Art Club offered

GTA students in grades 6-8 who love to create art are invited to join **Mrs. Miller** in an after-school Art Club. The group will meet on **Mondays (November 7-March 13) from 3:45-5:00 pm in MPR 4**. Students will choose, plan and schedule projects and help gather materials. Participation is FREE but donations of materials or monetary donations toward supplies are welcome. A sign-up form is attached to this newsletter.

## LSSU announces Holiday Card Contest

Lake Superior State University, our school charter authorizer, has announced their annual Holiday Card Contest. Open to all K-12 students from the 21 academies they authorize, the winning artwork will be used on their official holiday greeting cards (and we have had winners in the past!). Details are attached to this newsletter. Entries should be turned in to **Mrs. Wildner** (grades K-6) or **Mr. Kline** (grades 7-12) **no later than Wednesday, November 16**. Art may represent any winter holiday or winter celebration.

## GTA water bottles for sale

Did you know that our brains are 73 percent water and



need proper hydration to function normally? One study even found that drinking water improves memory and focuses our attention. That's why we encourage students to bring a water bottle to school each day to stay hydrated! Water bottle fillers are located throughout the school for refills. And, right now, 27-ounce easy grip water

bottles with the GTA logo are available for sale in either office for just \$3 each. Parents may buy them too, to promote our school wherever you go!

## Family Council meeting set

The Grand Traverse Academy Family Council, a parent group that supports GTA staff and families, will hold their next meeting on **Thursday, November 10, from 6:30-7:30 pm in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4**. Topics of discussion are as follows:

- Conference Night Dinners Recap
- GTA Staff Holiday Party
- Winter Family Fun Night and Movie Night
- Read-a-Thon
- Upcoming Used Uniform Sales and Conference Night Dinners
- End-of-Year Party

If you can make it, they would love to have you! [RSVP here](#) or send a message to [kristinboogaard@gmail.com](mailto:kristinboogaard@gmail.com).

## High School ZOMBIE NIGHT planned

Zombie Night is an evening packed full of NERF blaster fun! It takes place **Friday, November 4 from 7:00-9:00 pm** in the Big Gym. Players (high school only) must provide their own NERF blaster and ammo. The cost is \$10 per person and snacks will be provided.

Sponsored by the sophomore class.



## Dad jokes from Don

Why do witches wear nametags?

*So you know which witch is which.*



## Thanksgiving food drive planned

As you may have seen in your email box yesterday, GTA Cares is partnering with our National Honor Society students in a Thanksgiving food drive for under-resourced GTA families. Secondary advisories will compete to see which one can collect the most Thanksgiving dinner items to include in meal boxes. A list of specific items will follow in an email. Elementary families who wish to participate are welcome to make a cash donation of any amount, which will be used for the purchase of turkey gift certificates and to fill in any gaps in the meal boxes. Contributions may be made through the [GTA website](https://www.mygta.us). If you are in need of assistance with your Thanksgiving meal, please email us at [gtacares@mygta.us](mailto:gtacares@mygta.us) to reserve a box. All requests will be kept confidential and meal boxes may be picked up on **Monday, November 21 from 4:30-5:30 pm in the coffee shop** (at the right of the school's main entrance). Questions may be directed to [gtacares@mygta.us](mailto:gtacares@mygta.us).

## Order a yearbook now and save!

Orders are being taken now for the 2023 Secondary yearbook. This full-color, hardcover edition is \$45 through October 30; the price increases the longer you wait. It's \$50 from October 31-January 27 and \$55 after January 28. There are three easy ways to order:

- Visit [www.yearbookordercenter.com](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com) and use school number 12952
- Call toll-free at (800) 255-6287
- Complete the attached form, include a check payable to Grand Traverse Academy and mail or deliver it to the Secondary Office

## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

**Box Tops for Education.** Support our school as you shop! The [Box Tops mobile app](https://www.boxtopsforeducation.com) allows you to scan store receipts, find eligible grocery items and instantly add Box Tops to our earnings online. Download the app now to take advantage of this easy way to earn money for GTA.



**Save your Oleson's receipts, please!** Did you know that your Oleson's Food Market 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 and resulted in over \$1,000 in earnings last year. It's easy to participate – simply save your receipts and have your child drop them off in either office.

## Ongoing events

**Med Club Muffin Sales (Secondary)** – Every Monday from 7:45-8:00 am, \$2.00 each for several varieties, Multi-Purpose Room

**Sophomore Class Bagel Sales** – Every Wednesday from 7:40-8:00 am, \$2.00 each for several varieties, Multipurpose Room 4 and the Intention Room (Mrs. VanHouzen's office)

**Elementary Pizza Days** – Every other Wednesday, as follows: November 9, December 7, January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22, March 8 & 22, April 12 & 26 and May 10 & 24 (order and pay by the preceding Monday using forms sent home on off weeks), \$1.50 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

**NHS Elementary Doughnut Sales** – Every Friday in the Intention Room (at the entrance to the Elementary Wing), 7:50-8:05 am, \$1 each for several varieties

**NHS Secondary Doughnut Sales** – Every Friday in Multipurpose Rooms 1 & 2, 7:40-8:00 am, \$1 each for several varieties

**Secondary Beverage Sales** – Monday-Thursday at Lunch in Bronze 1, \$1.50 each for Snapple fruit drinks

**Fill the Pantry Jeans Days** – Thursdays: November 17, January 12, March 23, May 25 (\$2 per person to wear jeans with a uniform top)





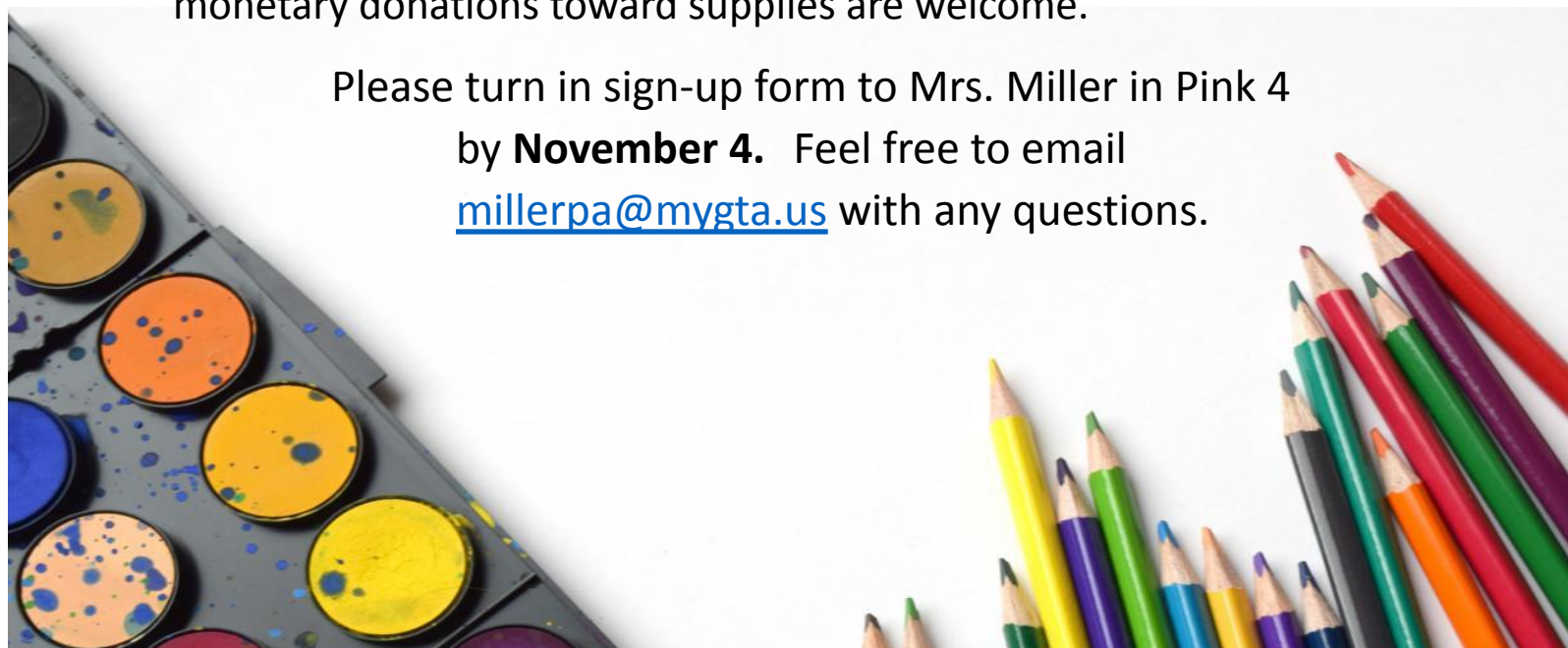
**When:** Mondays after school, from 3:45- 5:00 pm, November 7, 2022 until March 13, 2023

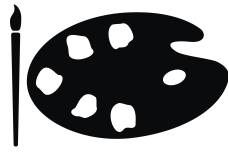
**Who:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders who love to create art!

**Where:** MPR 4

**Details:** Mrs. Miller, reading intervention coordinator, is the club facilitator. Students will choose, plan, schedule projects and help gather materials. Participation is FREE but donations of materials or monetary donations toward supplies are welcome.

Please turn in sign-up form to Mrs. Miller in Pink 4 by **November 4**. Feel free to email [millerpa@mygta.us](mailto:millerpa@mygta.us) with any questions.





## GTA Art Club Sign-Up Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom/Advisory Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Student Allergies or Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Contact Information

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

October 17, 2022

Dear LSSU Academies,

As I type this letter, I have a big smile on my face. Each year I look forward to our annual Holiday Card contest where I get to witness first hand all of the talented artists that attend academies authorized by Lake Superior State University. Winners will be selected from four categories with each winner's artwork displayed on our holiday card as well as receiving an LSSU "Swag bag." We accept artwork using a variety of art mediums, however, keep in mind that the image will be scanned. Here's what you need to know. Winners will be chosen in the categories of K-2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Please have interested students complete their designs on plain, white, letter sized paper. (8 ½ by 11) Students should include their **name, age, grade level, t-shirt size (S, M, L, XL- designate youth or adult size), and academy name** on the back of each submission. Designs are due no later than Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. I look forward to receiving your submissions. Please mail to:

Julie Buchholtz  
Academic Assessment Specialist  
Lake Superior State University  
Charter Schools Office- Fletcher Center  
650 West Easterday Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Winners will be notified by December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.  
Questions? Please contact me at [jhopper@lssu.edu](mailto:jhopper@lssu.edu).

Sincerely,

Julie Buchholtz

# GTA Fall Family Fun Day

(hosted by Family Council)



**At The Corn Maze at Jacob's Farm!**

**Saturday, October 29, 2:00 pm**



**Jacob's Farm**

**7100 East Traverse Highway (M72 West)**



**\$15 Adults, \$10 Ages 5-11, Ages 4 & Under Free**

**Kitchen Open until 9:00 pm**

**Plan to arrive a bit early to get in line to purchase tickets.  
Free fire pits, playground and connections with GTA families!**

**Questions? Contact Jessica at [jessicacollings@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicacollings@yahoo.com)**

# DONATE BLOOD

You're never too young to save a life

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER

4

9:30AM-2PM

Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy meal  
and drink plenty of water before  
donating.

## Blood Drive Hosted By Grand Traverse Academy

Join us on the Blood Bus in the Elementary Parking Lot for this important event!

Please give the gift of life - your donation could save THREE local patients!

To Sign Up:  
Visit [www.Versiti.org/mi](http://www.Versiti.org/mi)  
Scan the QR Code  
or Call 1-866-Mi-Blood



Appointments preferred, walk-ins welcomed!!  
All donors will receive a FREE certificate for Culver's Custard!

