

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Friday, November 4 – NHS Blood Drive, through 2:00 pm, South Parking Lot in the Blood Bus (see attached)

Friday, November 4 – End of First Quarter

Saturday, November 5 – Cross Country State Finals, Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn

Thursday, November 10 – 8th Grade Career-Tech Visit

Thursday, November 10 – Family Council Meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm, MPR 1 & 2

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

Thursday, November 17 – GTA Cares “Fill the Pantry” Jeans Day (school-wide)

Eighth graders to visit Career-Tech

GTA 8th graders will visit the Northwest Education Services Career Tech center on **Thursday, November 10** with Mrs. Wahl, Mrs. Callahan and Ms. Myers. The bus will leave at 9:15 am and return at approximately 11:15. This is a great opportunity for them to see first-hand the many different programs available in their junior year.

Mustang roundup

High school cross country. Congratulations to our



Mustang girls, who came in first at regional competition last Saturday. Petra Foote took second place and broke the school record! On the boys' team, six of the seven

accomplished all-time personal records. The girls,



tomorrow, Mustangs!

currently ranked in the top 10 in the state, qualified for state finals on **Saturday, November 5** at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. In addition, the following runners qualified for finals individually: **Chase Snell, Petra Foote, Julia Jones, Shenoah Collier, Paige Bell, Ava Butera, Alleah Dix and Lillie Tschirhart.** Best wishes

Elementary cross country. Congratulations to our



Elementary boys' cross country team on their first place finish at the GTACS Championship Meet. They ended the season as league champions, winning four of the five meets! Special recognition goes to 5th grader Remington Manthei, who won all five races. The girls' team was very small this year but they put in a lot of effort and worked hard. Great job, everyone, and a big thanks to **Coach Kipke, Deb Dent, Dawn Gruenert,** and our families for their support!

High school basketball. High school basketball season is coming soon! Girls begin on November 14 (paperwork and payment due on the 11th) and boys on the 21st (paperwork and payment due on the 18th).

Game dates and practices may be found on the [GTA website](#). 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.

Elementary basketball. GTA will be partnering with the YMCA for Elementary boys' and girls' basketball this year. The season runs from January 14-February 18, 2023 and practices will take place once or twice a week with games on Saturdays at the YMCA South location (Racquet Club Drive). Parents of interested players should sign them up for [Elementary basketball with GTA](#), so we may create teams. In addition, please sign up for the appropriate Youth Basketball session on the [YMCA basketball](#) website. The only fee is the YMCA cost, payable on their registration page. Coaches are needed! Interested parents should contact Mrs. Alejandro at alejandros@mygta.us.

\$1,000 school survey sweepstakes announced

Year after year, our enrollment applications tell us that the recommendations of friends, relatives or satisfied GTA parents are the number one reason why parents choose to pursue Grand Traverse Academy for their children's education. Here's your chance to share your thoughts about our school with others and to **have your name entered for a chance to win \$1,000** for doing so! Parents, students and recent alumni are all eligible. For details and a link to a short survey, go to the [Niche website](#). Responses are anonymous and will be displayed on the Niche site to help others find a school that is just right for their children! **Don't delay – the deadline to enter is November 30, 2022 at 11:00 pm EST.**



Veterans invited to celebration

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 next **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.

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.

Mustang onesies available

Have you welcomed a future GTA Mustang into your family recently? Grand Traverse Academy babies receive an "M is for Mustangs" onesie as a gift from GTA! If you have a new little one, stop by or call the Elementary Office and we'll be sure to get one to you. Don't wait though, as they are sized for babies up to six months of age.



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 composed of 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 1 & 2**. 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.

Thanksgiving food drive planned

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 has been emailed. 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. Cash contributions may be made through the [GTA website](#). **All donations should be made by Thursday, November 17**. If you are in need of assistance with your Thanksgiving meal, please email us

at 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.

Fun Facts



Once you see the right-facing arrow between the "E" and the "x" in the FedEx logo, you'll notice it every time! It was created that way by the logo designer to indicate movement and speed.

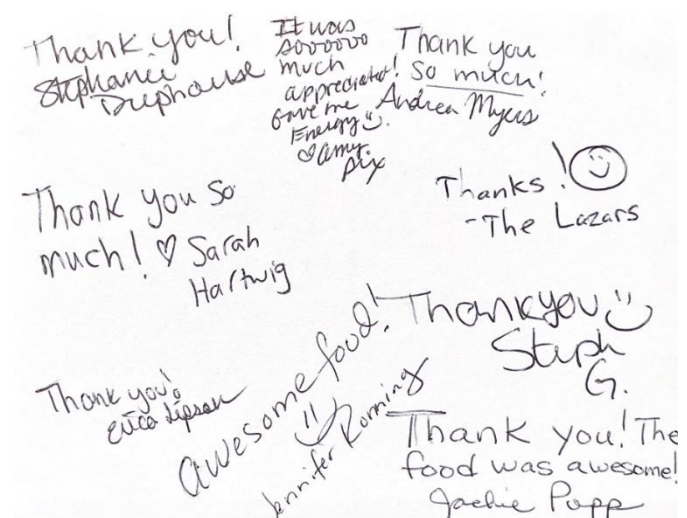
Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

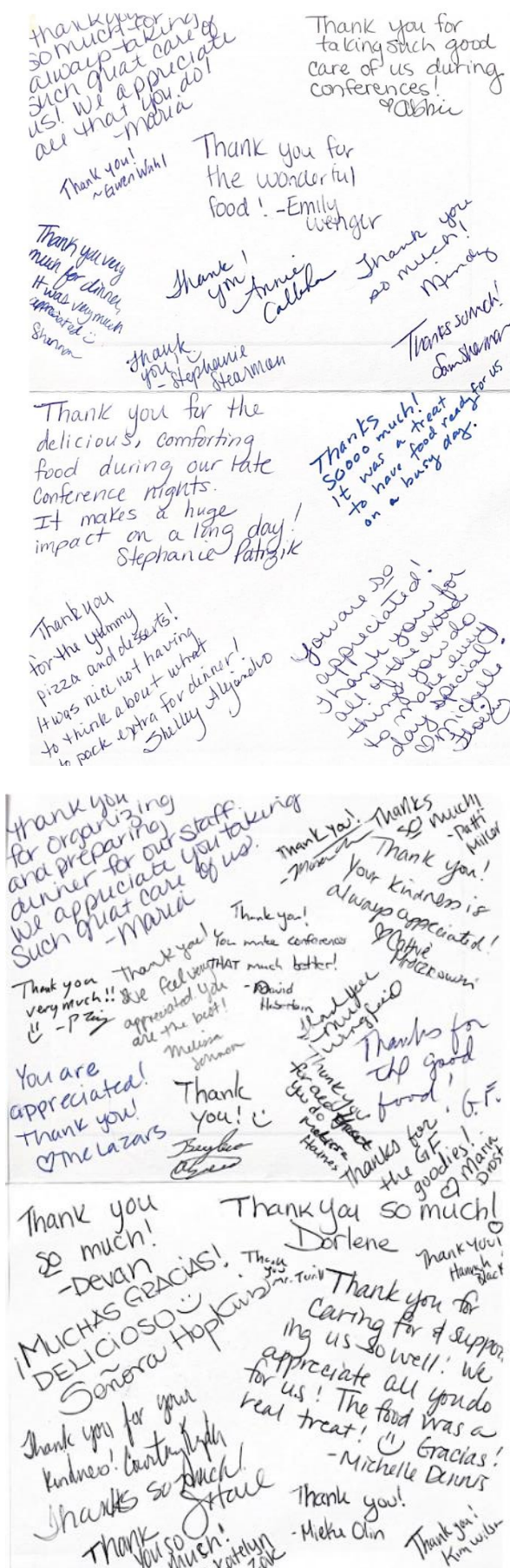
Save your Oleson's receipts, please! Did you know that your Oleson's Food Market cash register receipts are worth money for our school? With the Oleson's Community Share Program, you earn "Community Share Points" each time you shop (with the exception of alcohol purchases). One point equals one cent, 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.



Thank you, Family Council!

GTA teachers and staff who stayed late for evening conferences were so appreciative of the meals provided by our generous Family Council. Here are some notes of thanks (with more on the next page!):





Lunchtime reminder

Parents are asked to please remind children that what is packed in their lunch boxes must not be shared with anyone else. Many of our students have food allergies or other sensitivities that their friends may not be aware of. Similarly, students should be reminded to only consume what was packed for them. If your child happens to forget their lunch, they may let their teacher know and we will provide them a meal from our student lunch pantry. Thank you for helping us to keep all of our students safe!

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)



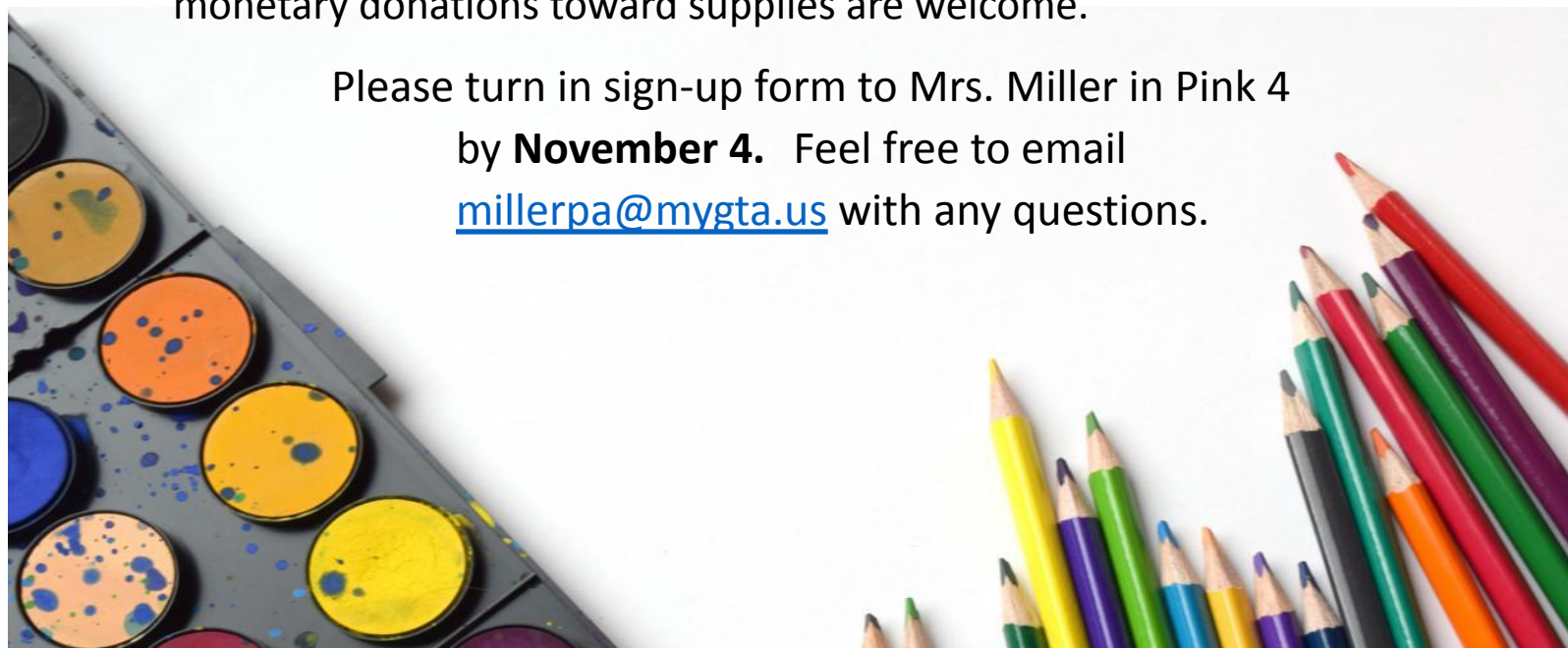
When: Mondays after school, from 3:45- 5:00 pm, November 7, 2022 until March 13, 2023

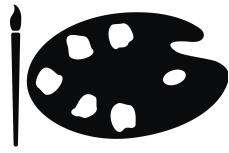
Who: 6th, 7th & 8th graders who love to create art!

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 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-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th 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 25th, 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 16th, 2022.
Questions? Please contact me at jhopper@lssu.edu.

Sincerely,

Julie Buchholtz