

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Wednesday-Friday, November 23-25 – NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, November 29 – Exchange Student Host Information Meeting, 6:00-7:00 pm, Intention Room (Mrs. VanHouzen's office at the entrance to the Elementary Wing)

Thursday, December 1 – Family Council Meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm, Multipurpose Rooms 1 & 2

Monday, December 5 – Coffee Orders Due (see below)

Students of the Month selected

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

Elementary – Respect

Beatrix Butler, kindergarten, is the daughter of Supapan and Matthew Butler. According to Ms. Myers, her teacher, "Beatrix is a very respectful student in our classroom! She has very polite manners, always saying 'please' and 'thank you.' She is kind with her words to others, always listens to her classmates' opinions

when they play together and is respectful of our learning time by paying attention in class. She is the perfect role model of a respectful student."



Zeenen Young, grade 2, is the son of Krystal and Chad Young. His teacher, Mrs. Keenan, says, "Zeenen is always respectful of those around him. He is respectful to other students when he is in the classroom learning, he waits his turn and never speaks over others. In the hall, Zeenen is respectful of other classes that are

learning. He speaks in a pleasant tone, helps to keep our classroom clean and follows our school wide expectations."



Rebecca Wheeler, grade 3, is the daughter of Whitney and Matthew Wheeler. Mrs. Wilson, her teacher, comments that, "The definition of respect is following school expectations, speaking in a pleasant tone, and treating the building, people and materials with care. That definition should have a picture of Rebecca



Wheeler under it! She follows school expectations no matter what other people are doing, and always speaks in a kind tone with courteous words when she is speaking to her teachers and peers. She even respectfully thanks her teacher for the instruction after lessons. Rebecca does not point out when a person makes an error in math class; instead, she will ask questions in a caring manner so the student feels valued and can find their mistake. She picks up classroom materials and puts them away, even if she did not get them out. Rebecca Wheeler is a respectful student!"

Luke Winter, grade 5, is the son of Stacie and Michael Winter. According to his teacher, Mr. Thomas, "Luke is an incredibly respectful student. He treats all of his teachers with respect and kindness and helps those around him in a kind and respectful manner. On top of that, he is a great teammate who showed respect for his cross country coaches throughout the season. In fact, I was pulled aside by the coach, who wanted to make sure I was aware of how respectful and well-mannered Luke had been at their meets. He is definitely an example to those around him!"



Secondary – Interpersonal Communication

Gracie Sterzik, grade 8, is the daughter of Charlotte and William Sterzik. She is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and has volunteered for the Father Fred Foundation. Gracie's interests are music and reading. She looks forward to getting her driver license and her goals are to attend college so that she



can get a job that makes her happy, and to keep her current friends for the rest of her life.



Hudson Sailor, grade 7, is the son of Nathan and Trinet Sailor. He plays basketball and hopes to join the track & field team in the spring. Hudson is looking forward to accompanying his uncle and others from his church on a mission trip to Guatemala in January.

He has numerous goals for the future: After graduation, Hudson would like to join the Air Force Pararescue to pay his way through college, where he is interested in pursuing finance, law, language, health, history and learning to be a sommelier (wine steward). After college, he would like to either become a Realtor or a history teacher, as well as a part-time sommelier, and have a family of his own. Hudson is interested in traveling and a dream is to complete a circumpolar journey similar to that of Ernest Shackleton, who is his favorite historical character. He would also like to travel to countries struggling with poverty to help their residents.

Megan Pavwoski, grade 10, is the daughter of Julie and Brad Pavwoski. Megan is a member of the National Honor Society and hopes to remain on the honor roll throughout high school. She plays varsity volleyball and basketball, and is looking forward to playing softball in the spring. Sports and reading are Megan's main hobbies



and she enjoys music and animals. After high school, she plans to attend college to study business. Goals for Megan include traveling the world and owning and fostering a lot of animals.

Ethan Lawrence, grade 10, is the son of Sarah and Matthew Lawrence. When he's not busy at school, he enjoys playing video games and working with computers. Ethan's goal for high school is to get good grades in all of his classes. After graduation, he hopes to attend college to study coding.



Library to host Escape Room

The East Bay Branch library on Three-Mile Road is hosting a Teen Escape Room on **Wednesday, November 30, from 5:00-6:30 pm**. Participants will find clues,

solve puzzles, eat pizza and break the code (before the time runs out!). The event is free for ages 12-18 but registration is required to attend. Visit www.tadl.org/events or call (231) 922-2085 to sign up!

Coffee's on!

Mr. Thomas's Upper Elementary class is once again selling coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund classroom activities, field trips and resources. The coffee comes in 12-ounce bags and is available in regular (\$13) and decaffeinated (\$14), whole bean and ground. **Orders are due on Monday, December 5 and will be delivered to the school on Monday, December 12.** An order form is attached to this newsletter.



Family Council meeting rescheduled

The GTA Family Council meeting previously planned for November 10 has been rescheduled to **Thursday, December 1, from 6:30-7:30 pm in Multipurpose Rooms 1 & 2** (across from the Secondary Office). Please [sign up here](#) so that organizers know how many to plan for. The agenda will be the same, with a lot of fun things to discuss, including some upcoming social events for families. They hope to see you there!

Secondary dodgeball tournament planned

GTA Secondary students are invited to watch or participate in a dodgeball tournament on **Friday, December 16 in the Big Gym**. Junior high plays from 12:00-2:00 pm and high school teams start at 2:30. Students have been informed and may register their team on the sign-up sheets outside the Secondary Office.



Mustang roundup

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](https://www.ygcabasketball.com/) website. The only fee is the YMCA cost, payable on their registration page. Registration closes on December 23, 2022. Coaches are needed! Interested parents should contact Mrs. Alejandro at alejandros@mygta.us.

GTA, veterans enjoy Veterans Day program

Grand Traverse Academy and our veteran and active



participated in a parade of flags led by a fire truck. The event

duty military guests enjoyed a moving Veterans Day program on Friday. Secondary students attended an assembly with speakers and a choir performance, while Elementary students



culminated with a Coast Guard flyover! We thank the GTA National Junior Honor Society, High School Choir and Key Club, Air Station Traverse City, Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority and the

students and staff members who all made this program possible. And we especially thank our veterans for their service to our country. See the GTA Facebook page for more photos!

Don't miss your chance to enter Niche's \$1,000 school survey sweepstakes

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.

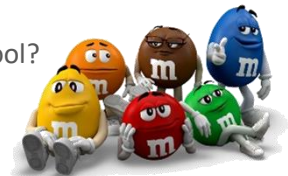
Here's your opportunity to share your thoughts about

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 a link to a short survey, go to the [Niche website](https://www.niche.com/schools/survey). Responses are anonymous and will be posted 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.**

Dad jokes from Don

Why did the M & M's go to school?

They wanted to be Smarties.



Medication reminder

Parents are reminded that medications must not be



sent to school with students or stored in backpacks or lockers for use during the day. All medication must be administered by staff in the office. According to state

law, we must have a physician's authorization in order to administer prescription medications to your children at school, and a parent's authorization for over-the-counter medications (including herbal or homeopathic remedies). *Parents must bring both the medication and the authorization form into the appropriate office.*

Crystal Mountain school ski/snowboard program returns

Once again, Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville is offering discounted lift tickets and equipment rentals, including professional on-hill instruction, to students of Grand Traverse Academy. The passes are good for **Thursdays only from January 10-February 16**. Children must be at least 7 by January 1, 2023 to take part in the program. Registration is [available online](https://www.crystallmountain.com/school) or you may request a hard copy packet from GTA parent Phil Conner, program coordinator, at (231) 342-0897. **The deadline for paperwork is Wednesday, November 30.** Online instructions, as well as detailed information about the program, is attached to this newsletter. Any questions may be directed to Phil at the number above.

Locals Student Season Pass Program offered at Shanty Creek

GTA students in grades 4-12 and/or ages 9-17 are eligible to purchase discounted all-area passes for the 2022-23 season at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire for just \$99! Interested parents may purchase an Add-a-Parent pass for \$399 (limit two per family). Details and purchase information is attached to this newsletter. Thank you, Shanty Creek, for this very generous offer!

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.



Fun Facts



If your last name is Cooper, it is likely that one of one of your ancestors was a barrel maker. Cooperage is the name given to the occupation of wooden cask making and a cooper is what the craftsman is called.

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 helps focus 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!



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: 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: January 12, March 23, May 25 (\$2 per person to wear jeans with a uniform top)



Mr. Thomas' Upper Elementary class is selling coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities, field trips, and resources this year! The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in Regular and Decaffeinated, Whole Bean and Ground. Orders are due on Monday, December 5th and will be delivered to the school Monday, December 12th. Prices are \$13 for Regular and \$14 for Decaf. Thank you for your support!

	Whole Bean	Ground
Bakery Blend	_____	_____
Bakery Blend Decaf	_____	_____
GTA Blend	_____	_____
GTA Blend Decaf	_____	_____
French Roast	_____	_____
French Roast Decaf	_____	_____
Hazelnut	_____	_____
Hazelnut Decaf	_____	_____
Caramel & Pralines	_____	_____
Caramel & Pralines Decaf	_____	_____
Chocolate Cherry Festival	_____	_____
Chocolate Cherry Festival Decaf	_____	_____

Total \$ _____ Student's Name _____

Phone # _____ Student's Teacher _____

Grand Traverse Academy
1245 Hammond Road East
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 995-0665 / Fax (231) 995-0880

AUTHORIZATION FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Name of Student _____ Birth Date _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____ Date Received by GTA _____

☐ **PHYSICIAN'S ORDER** *(to be completed by a physician or authorized prescriber)* **OR**

☐ **OVER-THE-COUNTER** *(to be completed by the parent and/or guardian)*

Diagnosis/Purpose of Medication _____ / _____

Name of Medication _____ Dosage _____

☐ Tablet/capsule ☐ Liquid ☐ Inhaler ☐ Injection ☐ Nebulizer ☐ Other _____

Frequency _____ Time of Day _____ Anticipated Duration _____

Important Side Effects or Restrictions _____

☐ For Episodic/Emergency Events Only _____

Special Storage Requirements ☐ None ☐ Refrigerate ☐ Kept with Child or Teacher in the classroom

Physician's Signature _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Physician's Name _____ Address _____

The undersigned parent/guardian authorizes Grand Traverse Academy, through its office staff, building level principal or secretary, to administer medication or to supervise the taking of medication by his or her child. It is understood that the undersigned parent/guardian shall immediately notify the school district in writing in the event that the prescription shall be discontinued or modified.

The medication must be brought to school by a parent/guardian in the original pharmacy bottle, appropriately labeled. The medicine must be kept locked in the school office. Refill of the prescription shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardians.

Further, the undersigned releases the school district and shall indemnify said school district from any liability or damage which may result to the student from the administration of said medicine as prescribed by the physician.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____



Links to purchase:

Tuesday Schools - <https://secure.crystalmountain.com/s/school-programs-tuesday>

Wednesday Schools - <https://secure.crystalmountain.com/s/school-programs-wednesday>

Thursday Schools - <https://secure.crystalmountain.com/s/school-programs-thursday>

Step by Step Online Store Instructions

1. After clicking on the link to the store provided, select your pass option by clicking "Shop Now". This will be the option furthest to the left. You will then be directed to a few more options.
2. Select which pass you'd like (Age 19+ for chaperones, Ages 7-18 for students).
 - a. **IF YOU ARE RENTING** – Select ski or snowboard below where you selected age.
 - b. **IF YOU ARE NOT RENTING** – **Do not** select ski or snowboard and click "Add to Cart" and proceed with the purchase.
 - c. Once you check the boxes you cannot uncheck them, refresh the page if this happens.
3. A brown "Checkout" box should appear after clicking "Add to Cart". Click that button and proceed.
4. You are now going to log in. It is likely that you will have to create an account as this is new. Follow the steps provided on how to create an account.
5. You will then be redirected back to your cart. Click "Select a Group Member". Your name should then come up below.
 - a. If you are adding more than one student/family member, click "Add Group Member" and enter that person's information in the fields.
 - b. You will also likely have to add a photo unless one comes up where your name is. **If you have to add a photo, you must do so before continuing with the purchase.**
 - c. Once complete, click the brown "Continue" box at the bottom.
 - i. **NOTE:** If you do not have a blue Crystal Card from last year, you must choose to get a new card and there is a \$2 fee for this. You will not be able to complete the purchase without selecting this option!!!
6. After proceeding, you will have to sign both waivers for the season. Click "Sign" next to both of the waivers. A box will open, scroll to the bottom and follow the prompts. Once these waivers are completed, select "Continue"
7. You will then be directed to the payment page. Fill out all the required boxes and then proceed to "Continue" at the bottom.
8. Verify all information is correct and click "Confirm Order". You have now completed the pass purchase process.



SHANTY CREEK RESORT

Shanty Creek Locals Student Season Pass Program

Shanty Creek Resorts is pleased to offer the NEW Locals Student Season Pass Program for the 2022-23 winter sports season. This program is offered to grade 4 - 12 students and/or students aged 9 – 17 in Antrim, Charlevoix, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Otsego counties. Students aged 8 & under can purchase regular passes for \$29.

This new program is designed to offer all students a reduced rate All Area season pass as a reward for their hard work and efforts toward education in what has been unique, challenging and changing environments. **Only one pass will be issued per student.**

IMPORTANT!! –NEW ONLINE PURCHASE PROCEDURE!

New this year – Local Student passes and Add-a-Parent passes can be purchased online using your schools unique Promo Code. Your Schools code, to be used by all students is **TRAVERSE** to purchase, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the season pass section of [shantycreek.com](https://www.shantycreek.com) and click on **Buy Season Pass >** or visit <https://www.shantycreek.com/?module=reset> and click on the Promotional Code tab.
2. Enter Promo Code **TRAVERSE**
3. Your schools Local Student pass and Add-a-Parent pass will be displayed.
4. Follow the instructions through the purchase process.
5. For Local Student and Add-a-Parent pass purchases that included all requested information and a photo, and that had Release of Liability waivers completed, your pass will be pre-printed for pick up. Passes will be available for pick up in person beginning November 25, 2022 on the lower level of The Lodge at Cedar River, located at 2400 Troon S, Bellaire, MI 49615. **Please have proof of enrollment in your school system when you come to pick up your pass.**
6. Any pass purchasers that are unable to provide proof of enrollment will have their passes canceled and their money refunded.

Pricing:

Locals Student Season Pass	\$ 99
Add-a-Parent passes *	\$339

Passes are All Area, unrestricted passes and are valid for 22/23 and good for weekdays, weekends, holidays; days or nights; at Schuss Mountain. Passes are picture passes and are not transferable. All applicable rules regarding SCR passes apply. Passes are good for lift access only and no rental, lesson, or tubing options are available to these pass holders.

** Parents of students purchasing Locals Student Season Passes may purchase "Add-a-parent" passes. Passes must be purchased at the time the student pass is issued and are limited to two parent passes per family.*

Fine Print

- Remember, you must supply the accurate proof of student enrollment in one of the 63 participating local schools. Having an address in the local area will not count as proof. Please see above.
- Any Locals Student pass holder caught obtaining or using their pass fraudulently will lose their Locals Student pass privileges for the remainder of their secondary education school career.
- All resort rules governing season passes apply. Students receiving season passes need to be 18 OR have a parent/guardian sign release of liability forms. The season pass liability form can be completed during the purchase process.
- Season pass holders and their guests are expected to conduct themselves in a safe and courteous manner while using their pass privileges at Shanty Creek.
- We are sorry, but no adjustments may be made to previous 22/23 pass purchases due to this program. Please retain this information for future season's pass purchases should you believe you qualify for the Locals Student Pass program.
- Please contact the Season Pass office at 866-901-3149 or skershner@shantycreek.com with questions.