

# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**Saturday, December 3** – VEX Robotics Tournament, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Benzie Central High School

**Week of December 5** – Health Department Vision and Hearing Screening (see below)

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

**Thursday, December 8** – Holiday Band Concert, 6:30 pm, Big Gym

**Friday, December 9** – Holiday Choir Concert, 6:00 pm, Big Gym

**Friday, December 9** – High School Movie Night, 7:30 pm, Lecture Hall (\$5 in advance, in the Secondary Office)

**Monday, December 19-Friday, January 2, 2023** – **SCHOOL**, Holiday Break

## Holiday concerts planned



It's that time of year, and our Secondary bands and Elementary & Secondary choirs have some beautiful songs of the season in store for you!

**Bands.** On **Thursday, December 8**, our Secondary bands will perform as follows:  
**6:30 pm** – Junior High School (Cadet and Concert Bands)  
**7:30 pm** – High School (Jazz & Varsity Bands and Symphony Winds)

**Choirs.** On **Friday, December 9**, the Elementary Choir starts the evening at **6:00 pm**, followed by the Mustang and Chamber Choirs, and a combined performance.

Both concerts take place in the Big Gym and are free and open to the public. Why not invite a friend or family member to join you?

## Mustang roundup

Congratulations to our girls' cross country team, which



was awarded Academic All-State honors at the state finals with a combined team GPA of 3.897. In addition, **Petra Foote** and **Julia Jones** earned individual Academic All-State honors for combined grades and performance (GPA's of 4.0 and finishing in the top half of the race). And on Sunday, **Petra Foote**, **Julia Jones** and **Shenoah Collier** were named to the Traverse City Record-Eagle All-Region Girls' Cross Country Team. Way to go, Mustangs!

## Snow Day procedures

Grand Traverse Academy follows the decisions of the Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) for weather-related closings and will close school (including Mighty Mustangs Preschool and Quality Care) when TCAPS closes. When school is closed due to weather, elementary and junior high extracurricular activities will be cancelled and decisions about any scheduled high school events will be made and communicated by 12:00 noon. Parents will be notified via email and voicemail messages prior to 6:00 am when possible, and information will be posted on the GTA website and Facebook page. School closings are also announced on local television and radio stations.

Please be aware that TCAPS may close from time to time for non-weather-related reasons. *Grand Traverse Academy will be open unless TCAPS is closed due to weather.* GTA families will always be notified by the means listed above if we will be closed for the day.

## Vision and hearing screening next week

As we communicated last week via email, the Grand Traverse County Health Department will administer free, routine vision and hearing tests here at school next week, as follows: **Vision** – Preschool and grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9; **Hearing** – Preschool and grades K, 2 and 4.

## 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.



## Yearbook class accepting ads

Do you own a business and want to show your support



for GTA? Yearbook advertising also gives your business exposure to GTA families, as they tend to look at the books often. Now is the time to place an ad in the 2023 Secondary yearbook! Prices are as follows: Business card size \$45, ¼ page \$65, ½ page \$150, full page \$300. If interested, contact **Reed Hudson**, editor-in-chief, at [HUDSONR23@MYGTA.US](mailto:HUDSONR23@MYGTA.US). He'll be happy to answer your questions and get your business in front of our Secondary students and their parents!

## Coffee's on!

Mr. Thomas's Upper Elementary class is 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.

## Crystal Mountain ski/snowboard program parent group forming

If your child(ren) are registered for GTA Night on Thursdays at Crystal Mountain for skiing or snowboarding, a GTA parent is interested in getting a group together to carpool, meet up at Crystal Mountain or learn who will be participating so students can connect at the slopes. For information, contact Jessica at [jessicacollings@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicacollings@yahoo.com).

## Students teach guests at culminating event

Last week, **Mr. Lazar's** Upper Elementary class held



their first culminating event of the school year, which involved teaching parents and other guests about Choice Theory and Character Education. They discussed the GTA character traits and how character relates to reaching learning goals, Choice Theory's five basic needs with real-life examples and so much more! Mr. Lazar reported that students did an amazing job sharing this information.

## Dad jokes from Don



Why didn't Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer make the honor roll at school this marking period?

*He went down in history.*

## Career Tech now offers driver license road tests to the community

North Ed Career Tech (formerly TBAISD) is offering road tests for passenger vehicle, motorcycle and commercial driver licenses. Testing takes place by appointment only, Monday through Saturday, at Career Tech, 880 Parsons Road in Traverse City. For an appointment, call (231) 922-7800 or [schedule online](#).

## 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.



## Amazing Facts

Dead skin cells are a main ingredient of household dust. According to researchers at Imperial College London, humans shed around 200 million skin cells each hour! If that makes you want to reach for the broom or dust cloth, think about this: A report from the American Chemical Society found that a skin oil called squalene naturally helps reduce harmful indoor ozone levels by up to 15 percent.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_