

# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

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

**Friday, December 9** – *High School Movie Night*

**CANCELLED**

**Thursday, December 15** – *School-Wide Ugly Sweater or Holiday Shirt Day (see below)*

**Monday, December 19-Friday, January 2, 2023** – **NO SCHOOL**, *Holiday Break*

## Choir concert tonight

It's that time of year, and our Secondary bands put on a beautiful holiday performance last night. Tonight's choir event begins at **6:00 pm**, featuring the Elementary, Mustang and Chamber Choirs and finishing with a combined choir piece. The concert takes place in the **Big Gym** and is free and open to the public. Why not invite a friend or family member to join you?

## Upper Elementary Robotics Club begins next month

GTA's Upper Elementary Robotics Club is starting soon. This year, 5th and 6th graders will learn coding skills and language through [www.Code.org](http://www.Code.org) and will use their new knowledge to program a Micro:bit robot to complete tasks and challenges. Club Meetings will be held **after school on Thursdays in Purple 1, from January 5-March 23** at a cost of \$20, which includes a Robotics Club t-shirt. Because students will be working with a partner and building on skills each week, attendance is important at each of the 12 sessions. Call the Elementary Office at (231) 995-0665 to register. Payment may be made with a credit card, or cash/check (dropped off in the office). If cost is an issue, please let us know when you register. Students will need to be picked up at South Carpool promptly at 5:00 or be registered for Quality Care to participate. Class size is limited to 30, so don't delay!

## Holiday/Ugly Sweater Day

GTA will observe International Ugly Sweater Day (officially the third Friday of December), on

**Thursday, December 15!**

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! **Note that Secondary students must have a Mustang Spirit Band to participate. A limited supply of the bracelets are still available in the Secondary office for \$5 each.**

## Secondary Robotics Tournament results

GTA had an amazing day last Saturday at the Husky

Robotics VEX VRC Tournament at Benzie Central High School. Three teams represented GTA: 7567A



Some Assembly Required (Ashton Cherup, Coleman Mroczkowski, Isaac

Deneau) 7567E

Live Wire Fluffy

Unicorns (Emerson Slepicka, Eli Willoughby, Olivia Dombrowski, Logan Lambert, Sam McMann)

and 7567D Mighty Drivers (Ryilan Shimko, Akyedzi



Acheampong, Leo Mulholland, Nathan Kinney, Henry



Courtright, Chase Worm). All three teams made it to the Quarterfinals (out of 13 teams total and all three teams received awards!

**Design Award:** 7567A Some Assembly Required

**Robust Award:** 7567E Live Wire Fluffy Unicorns

**Judges Award:** 7567D Mighty Drivers

Robotics coach **Annie Callahan** is incredibly proud of the character, initiative and sportsmanship these students have shown and we appreciate her leadership and support of Mustang Robotics!

### Calling all 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls!

GTA girls in grades 4 and 5 are invited to help round out our elementary girls' basketball team at the YMCA. 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. **Registration closes on December 23, 2022.**

### 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!



### 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!

### Pioneer Day

As a part of their social studies unit on American



pioneers, Middle Elementary students in the Red Hall (the classes of **Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Cherup, Ms. Kipke and Mrs. Olin**) held a "Pioneer Day" last Friday with

some hands-on activities. They dressed as pioneers, made patchwork quilt squares, learned how to square dance and enjoyed pancakes (courtesy of Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Smith!).



### Dad jokes from Don

Where do gingerbread men sleep?

*On cookie sheets!*

### Holiday Break reminder

Grand Traverse Academy will be closed for our winter Holiday Break from **Monday, December 19 through Tuesday, January 2**. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3 for a full day.

## Where are they now?

GTA alumni have gone on to do some interesting things after graduation. **Emily Page**, class of 2021 (and daughter of Mighty Mustangs Preschool Teacher Dorlene Page and her husband, Scott), has a taxidermy business. She was featured on a recent #WomenDo program on [TV 9&10's Good Day Northern Michigan](#). Emily actually started the business while still in school and has continued it in college, where she studies zoology. Her plan after earning her bachelor's degree is to go on to veterinary school. Congratulations, Emily!

## Candy Grams are coming!

The GTA Key Club will be selling Candy Grams next **Monday-Thursday, December 12-15**. Candy canes, with a personalized note for friends, teachers or any special someone attached, are \$1 each and will be sold in the Multipurpose Room and the vestibule at the junction of the Elementary and Secondary Wings from **7:45-8:20 am**. Deliveries will be made on Friday, December 16.

## GTA students recognized by Career Tech

Congratulations to the following, who were named Students of the Quarter at North Ed Career Tech, based on academic success, leadership, community service related to the program, work ethic and/or improvement in either academics or work ethic:

**Isaac Deneau**, grade 12, Engineering Academy. Isaac's program teacher said, "Isaac pays attention to details, is conscientious and has all work in all classes done thoroughly and on time."

**Peter Mimnaugh**, grade 11, Construction Trades. According to his program teacher, "Peter is a good critical thinker and problem solver. He goes the extra distance to analyze construction problems and helps others to understand the math involved. He works well in a team and is a great addition to our class."

## Outdoor Club is back!

Upper Elementary teacher **Justin Lazar** is pleased to be bringing back the Outdoor Club for students who have a passion for the outdoors and are interested in Michigan's natural resources. *Go Wild for Wildlife* (grades 3-5), *A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear* (grades 6-8) and *Elk University* (grades 9-12) will be offered next month. Details and a registration form are

attached to this newsletter. Please complete the form and have your child **return it to Mr. Lazar in Purple 3 no later than January 4, 2023**.

## Random Facts



You can't hum while holding your nose.

*I bet you just tried it, didn't you?*

[www.facts.net](http://www.facts.net)

## 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: 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)



## 2023 Outdoor Club Registration Form

We are happy to announce the return of the GTA Outdoor Club! If your child has a passion for the outdoors and loves to learn about things related to Michigan's natural resources, this opportunity may be for them. Please read the information below and if your child is interested and committed, ***please have them return the slip at the bottom of this form to Mr. Lazar in the Purple 3 classroom by January 4, 2023.***

- **Go Wild for Wildlife, Grades 3-5.** This course will cover basic needs of our wildlife in Michigan. This course will be offered on January 9 and 11 from 4-5 pm in Mr. Lazar's classroom (Purple 3). On day one, we will cover the needs of many organisms native to Michigan. On day two, we will take a walk around GTA's property, looking for evidence of wildlife and habitat (boots recommended).
- **A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear, Grades 6-8.** This course will include data analysis of bear characteristics, understanding the purpose of den checks, and carrying capacity for areas in which they live. This course will be offered January 16 and 18, from 4-5:00 pm in Mr. Lazar's room (Purple 3). On day one, we will cover the purpose of den checks and analyze data collected from them, and on day two, we will analyze survival needs for bears within the areas in which they live.
- **Elk University, Grades 9-12.** This course will cover the population and impact of elk in our state. This course will be offered January 23, 25, and 30, from 4-5:00 pm in Mr. Lazar's classroom (Purple 3). On the first day, we will do a simulated population analysis (which is done from an airplane). On the second day, we will research the impact of elk in Michigan. On the final day, we will have a mock town hall meeting, where students will play the role of various stakeholders.

If your child is interested, please be sure they can commit to all dates. Students attending will be expected to consistently participate in all activities. All courses will be limited to 20 participants. Please have them arrive a few minutes before 4:00 pm so we can collect attendance and get started promptly. Elementary students can come to my classroom right after school at 3:45 pm. Afterwards, please pick up your child at the north entrance (Secondary Wing) at 5:00 pm or communicate with me that they will be going to Quality Care. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [lazarj@mygta.us](mailto:lazarj@mygta.us).

Best Regards,

Justin Lazar

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Student Name	Go Wild for Wildlife (Grades 3-5)	A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear (Grades 6-8)	Elk University (Grades 9-12)

### Contact Information

Student Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_