



# Connections

A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy Families



October 23, 2020

Volume 21  
Issue 7

## Dates to remember

Monday, November 2 – School Picture Retakes

Thursday, November 19 – GTA Cares Fill the Pantry  
Jeans Day

## GTA senior recognized by College Board

Congratulations to **Sam Stivani**, who has been named a National Recognition Scholar by the College Board, the organization that develops and administers standardized tests, including the PSAT/NMSQT (preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test). Sam scored in the top 2.5 percent of students who took the test last school year and met certain other criteria. Way to go, Sam!



## Preschool and Elementary students learn bike safety

GTA preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> graders have enjoyed learning about bicycle safety the last two weeks with bikes on loan from Norte. This week, they focused on coming to a complete stop and looking left, right, left before proceeding. Many students have



graduated from balance bikes to pedal bikes and their enthusiasm is awesome!



Safe. Loved. Learning.

## Navigating our new website and app

If you have visited our new website ([www.mygta.us](http://www.mygta.us)), you may have noticed a couple of differences. For one, our Staff Directory is located under the dropdown menu at the top right of the page called, EXPLORE. Items under EXPLORE are those included on our new app.

Click on Staff Directory, either on the website or in the app, and you'll find a quick and easy way to contact any staff member, either by phone or email. At the top right of the website, click on the down arrow to select a department to narrow your search. Do the same thing on the app by clicking on the icon at the upper right that resembles a stack of papers.

And, if you haven't done so already, be sure to download GTA's new app on your iPhone (<https://apple.co/3bCRz87>) or Android (<https://bit.ly/3h9NIX0>).

Then just follow these easy steps:

- Select "ALLOW" when prompted on initial download to ensure you receive notifications
- Open the app and navigate to the top left menu and then click on "SETTINGS" near the bottom of the list
- Be sure that notifications are turned on

## Online payments temporarily unavailable

We are improving the online payment system on our new website, so online payments are temporarily unavailable. If you take advantage of that option for Preschool, Quality Care or other payments, please feel free to call either the Elementary Office at 995-0665 or the Secondary Office at 932-6038 and we will be happy to process your payment for you. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience.

## NMC hosts student financial aid literacy events

Northwestern Michigan College is hosting a series of financial aid information sessions and scholarship workshops now through mid-December. All sessions will be held virtually via Zoom and are open to all current or future college students, regardless of the college they plan to attend, and parents are welcome to participate as well. See the attached flyer for details.

## Senior corner

The Class of '21 is already seven weeks into their senior year! There are several important deadlines coming up that students and parents should make a note of:

- College applications should be submitted by **Sunday, November 1** for priority acceptance. Transcripts may be obtained at [www.Parchment.com](http://www.Parchment.com).
- The senior class composite photo will be taken at school on **Friday, November 6**. Boys should wear a white button-down dress shirt. Ties will be provided for the photo, as well as portrait shoulder drapes for the girls.
- The deadline to submit personal yearbook photos is **Friday, November 20**. They should be vertical head and shoulder shots at least 300 dpi in resolution.
- Cap and gown orders are due on **Monday December 18**.

Project Graduation, our all-night tobacco-, drug- and alcohol-free party for graduates, has become a tradition at Grand Traverse Academy. Organized by parents, the event is funded through the generosity and support of our community. Do you wish to make graduation night a memorable one for one of our seniors? See the Sponsor a Senior flyer attached for details!

## It's not too late to order school pictures!

If you did not order pictures when they were taken in September, it's not too late! Either [visit the Timeless Image website](#) or scan the QR code at left to place and pay for your order. Order codes are 5820 for Preschool & Elementary and 6320 for Junior High & High School. **As a reminder, School picture retakes are scheduled for**



**Monday, November 2.**

## Soccer season comes to an end

**District finals.** Though they lost Wednesday night's district final game 1-0 against Elk Rapids, our Sabres co-op soccer team played a great game that went down to the closing minutes, with both teams having opportunities to score. With a 16-3-2 season, there are lots of accomplishments to celebrate! We wish Elk Rapids all the best in their regional game in Clare next week.

**Soccer information meeting.** Next **Friday, October 30**, boys in grades 8-11 who are interested playing next fall are invited to a quick 15-minute meeting in the south parking lot at 12:30 with Mr. Lazar. If they cannot make that meeting, please email him at [lazarj@mygta.us](mailto:lazarj@mygta.us).

## Mustang roundup

**Cross country season winds down.** Mustang cross



country has had a great season, with additional awards added to the collection this year! Varsity girls were runners-up at the Buckley Invitational and champions at the Mancelona Ironmen Invitational, the Cecil Burch Memorial Invitational, and the Chris Grabowski Memorial Invitational. Varsity boys took the title of second runners-up at the Mancelona Ironmen Invitational. This **Saturday, October 24**, they compete in pre-regionals at Buckley for a spot in regionals at Benzie Central on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Good luck, Mustangs!

**Basketball season starting soon.** Cooler outdoor weather brings sports indoors, with basketball starting in the next few weeks. Junior high begins on **Monday, October 26**, high school girls start on **November 9** and high school boys begin on **November 16**. Junior high girls' basketball starts in January – watch for more information!

## Virtual college rep meetings planned

Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to meet with representatives from various colleges, universities and the armed services right here at school. This is a great way to learn about program offerings and ask questions during the post-secondary decision-making process.

**This year, the meetings will be done virtually through Google Meet** and recorded and stored so that other students may access the information later. Upcoming dates are as follows, with more to come!

**Monday, October 26**

Northwestern Michigan College



**Wednesday, November 4**

Western Michigan University

**Tuesday, November 10**

Detroit College for Creative Studies

## Substitute teachers needed

There is a shortage of substitute teachers at schools throughout the region and Grand Traverse Academy is no exception. If you are interested in covering for teacher absences at our school, we'd love to hear from you! You need not



be a certified teacher or have a degree: requirements include at least 60 credits earned from an accredited college or university. Pay is \$65 per half day or \$125 per full day; benefits are working with and for our team of dedicated professionals and spending time with our awesome students! Contact Maria Dean at [deanm@mygta.us](mailto:deanm@mygta.us) to apply.

## LSSU student holiday art contest opens

Lake Superior State University, which granted our school charter, is holding their annual holiday art contest. All LSSU academy students in grades K-12 are eligible to submit their artwork in the following categories: K-grade 2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Winners will be notified by December 14 and will receive an LSSU t-shirt and SWAG bag and have their work displayed on the university's charter school office official 2020 holiday card! Interested young artists should complete their designs on plain, white letter-sized (8 ½ x 11") and include their name, age, grade, t-shirt size (youth or adult S, M, L or XL) and the name of our school on the back. Any medium can be used but keep in mind that the image will be scanned.

Submissions must be received by **Wednesday, November 25**. Mail to:

Julie Hopper  
Academic Assessment Specialist  
Lake Superior State University  
Charter Schools Office – Fletcher Center  
650 West Easterday Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

**Save your Oleson's receipts, please!** Do you shop at Oleson's Food Markets? Do you know that your cash register receipts are worth money to 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, even though the school year was cut short. It's easy to participate – simply save your receipts and place them in the collection box inside the Elementary entrance (to the right of the office door).

**Box Tops for Education.** If you're familiar with the Box



SEE THIS...  
**SCAN**  
YOUR RECEIPT

Tops for Education coupons found on many grocery items, you may have noticed

something new: Now you can earn cash for our school in a whole new way. A new [Box Tops mobile app](#) allows you to scan store receipts, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our earnings online. No more clipping, taping onto collection sheets and dropping them off at school! You may still find the traditional Box Tops coupons on certain items, which can still be brought in to either office, but be sure to download the app now to take advantage of this easy way to earn free money for GTA!