



# Connections

A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy Families



November 6, 2020

Volume 21  
Issue 9

## Dates to remember

**Friday, November 6** – End of First Quarter

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

**Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27** – Thanksgiving  
Break

## Mustang roundup

**Varsity girls win cross country regionals.**

Congratulations to our Mustang girls, who took first



place with 50 points at regionals in Buckley last Saturday – 21 points less than the second place team! (In cross country, the lower score, the better).

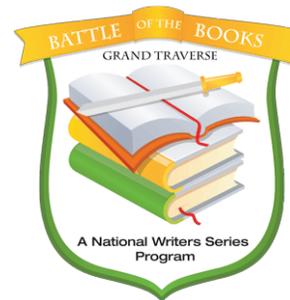
Individual times were as follows: **Petra Foote** 22:09.41, **Katelynn Dix** 22:17.53, **Lexi Payne** 22:23.98, **Danielle Cronin** 23:11.38, **Alleah Dix** 23:12.33, **Madison Brown** 24:47.28, and **Emily Page** 24:50.33. They compete at the State Cross Country Finals **tomorrow, November 7**, at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. Best wishes, girls!

**Varsity volleyball and boys' cross country finish seasons.** Congratulations to our Mustang boys' cross country team, which completed a great season after regional competition last weekend. An impressive varsity volleyball season also came to an end after district competition on Monday. Many thanks to cross country coach **Kevin York** and volleyball coach **Rob Kinney** – and way to go, Mustangs!

**Basketball season begins.** Cooler outdoor weather brings sports indoors, with basketball starting in the next few weeks. Junior high boys are in full swing, high school girls start on Monday, elementary girls on **November 14** and high school boys on **November 16**. Junior high girls' basketball starts in January – watch for more information!

## Battle of the Books: Pandemic Edition

GTA 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate in



Battle of the Books, sponsored by the National Writers Series. Battle of the Books is a quiz-based competition involving students from our entire region. The rules have been tweaked a bit this year to be all virtual; however, students

will still form teams, read excellent books and test their knowledge of the books against other teams. Coaches are Elementary GEMS teacher Mrs. Drost and Secondary Science teacher Mr. Drost. Interested parents and students are invited to learn more at a virtual information session this **Sunday, November 8 at 4:00 pm on Zoom** via the following link:

<http://bit.ly/BattleMeeting>. If your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader is interested, or you would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Drost at [drostma@mygta.us](mailto:drostma@mygta.us). Details can be found at <http://www.battleofthebooksqt.com>.



*Thank You,  
Veterans*

Although we cannot hold our usual Veterans Day celebration this year to honor those who fought for and served our country, you have our respect and gratitude.

## New online payment page available on GTA website

We are pleased to introduce an [all-new online system](#)



for GTA fees and other school-related payments. You can still pay for milk passes, athletics fees, Quality Care, preschool tuition, AP

test fees and high school materials fees (or donate to your favorite GTA cause!) safely and securely online – the page just looks different. Click on Payments on the site menu, then Pay Online, and you'll find a "catalog" of items that you can pay for at your convenience. **Note that quantities may be changed, items removed from your shopping cart and a note or special instructions added at checkout.** As usual, be sure to include your child(ren)'s name and other pertinent information where applicable so that we know how to apply your payment. We appreciate your patience during the transition to this new system and hope you find it easy and convenient to use!



**Congrats,  
you're in!**

**Ellie Ettawageshik** has received a letter of acceptance from Northern Michigan University

## Virtual tutoring services available

If your child could use some academic support and COVID is making it difficult to find an in-person tutor, here are a couple of virtual services available at no charge:

### Grand Valley State University K-12 Connect

- Free virtual tutoring services are available for any K-12 student who is a resident of the State of Michigan
- Visit [www.gvsu.edu/k12connect](http://www.gvsu.edu/k12connect)

## Virtual Tutoring through Oakland University

- Visit [www.mycovidresponse.org/signup?description=I+need+help](http://www.mycovidresponse.org/signup?description=I+need+help)
- Register at this site or call (248) 600- 9541 Monday- Friday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm
- Please select the organization to which you are the MOST connected
- If you are not connected with any organization on this list, please select COVID Response Network

## Order Secondary yearbooks online

Junior high and high school students may order their full-color hardcover 2021 yearbooks online at [Herff Jones](#), using the school order code 12952. The cost is \$50 through January 27, when the price increases to \$55. If you are unable to order online, please call the Secondary office at 932-6038. TIP: If you cannot remember if you placed an order, log in to the Herff Jones website as shown above and click on "Find Your Order" to find out!

## Senior corner

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

- The deadline to submit 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 or re-taken last week, 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 5820R for Preschool & Elementary and 6320R for Junior High & High School.

## 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!

### Tuesday, November 10

United States Air Force  
Detroit College for Creative Studies



### Wednesday, November 11

Ferris State University

### Thursday, November 12

Aquinas College



### Tuesday, November 17

Northwood University

## Keep GTA safe with screening

Screening for COVID-19 symptoms daily before leaving for school is helpful in keeping our GTA community healthy. The Grand Traverse County Health Department screening protocol is attached for your convenience.

## 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 open

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:

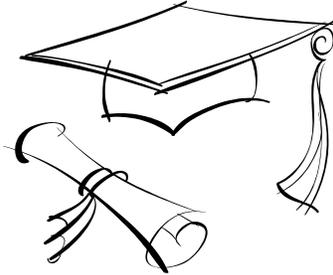
Julie Hopper  
Academic Assessment Specialist  
Lake Superior State University  
Charter Schools Office – Fletcher Center  
650 West Easterday Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

**Save your Oleson's receipts, please!** Do you shop at Oleson's Food Markets? Did 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.** 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!

# SPONSOR-A-SENIOR



## PROJECT GRADUATION CLASS OF 2021

Project Graduation has become a proud tradition at Grand Traverse Academy. It is an exciting all-night event that is tobacco, drug and alcohol free. This graduation celebration is for all Grand Traverse Academy Seniors. Organized by parents, Project Graduation is funded through the generosity and support of the Grand Traverse Community.

### **OUR SENIORS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

Do you know a senior that you would like to sponsor to help make his or her graduation night a memorable occasion? Please complete the form below. Donations, regardless of the amount, are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: **GTA Project Graduation** and mailed to:

GTA Project Graduation  
ATTN: Mindy Van Houzen  
1245 Hammond Road East  
Traverse City, MI 49686

If you have any questions, please contact Mindy at (231) 932-6960

-----  
SPONSOR NAME AND ADDRESS

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my general donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the class of 2021.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Senior\*

My "Congratulations" should read:

From: \_\_\_\_\_

\*An acknowledgment of your sponsorship will be sent to the senior.

## Student Screening

Screen your child for the following symptoms daily before they leave for school. Follow the directions below if your child displays symptoms or has been exposed.

### Symptoms

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

### Close Contact/Potential Exposure

In the past 14 days, has your child:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19; OR
- Had a travel history

If the answer is **YES** to any of the **symptom** questions, keep your child(ren) home from school.

If the answer is **YES** to any symptoms question and **YES** to any close contact/potential exposure question, call the school as soon as possible to let them know the reason your child(ren) won't be there today. Call your healthcare provider right away. If you don't have one or cannot be seen, go to [www.mi.gov/coronavirustest](http://www.mi.gov/coronavirustest) or call 2-1-1 to find a location to have your child(ren) tested for COVID-19.

If the answer is **YES** to any of the symptom questions, but **NO** to any close contact/potential exposure questions, your student may return based on the guidance for their symptoms (see "[Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#)"):

- Fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Sore throat: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken);
- Cough/Shortness of breath: improvement
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
- Severe headache: improvement

**DISCLAIMER: This screening tool is subject to change based on the latest information on COVID-19.**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#)

