



December 14, 2018  
Volume 19  
Issue 14

A Weekly Newsletter  
for Grand Traverse Academy  
Families

**Dates to remember**

**Saturday, December 15** – VEX Robotics Tournament,  
7:30 am-Doors Open/8:45 am-Opening Ceremony

**Monday, December 24-Friday, January 4** – NO SCHOOL,  
Holiday Recess

**Secondary Students of the Month chosen**

Congratulations to the following, who were selected as Students of the Month for November for their demonstration of the character trait of Professional Work Habits:



**Carinne Tarkowski**, grade 7, is the daughter of Gayle & Rich Tarkowski. When she’s not at school, she volunteers at her church nursery and enjoys dancing. Carinne hopes to finish the school year with all A’s and receive an invitation to the National Junior Honor Society. She

also plans to join the basketball team this season. After graduation, Carinne plans to go to college to become a teacher.

**Dalton Holcomb**, grade 8, is the son of Summer Holcomb, Steve Holcomb and Tom Henke. He enjoys hunting, fishing and camping while spending time with his family. During the summer, Dalton works with his dad and stepdad learning the masonry and insulation trades.



Once he finishes high school, he wants to follow his family’s lead in serving our country, with a goal of becoming a scout sniper with the US Marines. After serving, Dalton plans to work in the construction field and one day take over running one of the family businesses.



**Bo Eyre**, grade 9, is the son of Scott & Wendy Eyre. At school, he is involved with the robotics team and is interested in math and engineering. In his free time, Bo volunteers at East Bay Calvary Church. His goals for the future include earning a 4.0 GPA, to

become effective at time management, turn in his assignments on time, and to make a positive impact for Christ.

**Melissa Hatch**, grade 10, is the daughter of Karen & Al Hatch. She plays basketball and softball at GTA and is involved in the Student Senate. Melissa enjoys planning and setting up events and assemblies at school and helps assemble lunches nearly every week in the GTA Food Pantry for our less fortunate students. Melissa is exploring career paths and has several goals: Graduating from high school with good grades, being accepted at the college of her choice, and eventually finding success in a career. She looks forward to seeing where her education leads her and is working hard to reach her goals.



**GTA students honored by Career-Tech Center**

Congratulations to the following GTA students who were chosen as Students of the Quarter at the TBAISD Career-Tech Center. Selection may be based on academic success, leadership, community service related to the program, work ethic, and/or improvement in either academics or work ethic.



**Alyssa Tarkowski**, Web & Game Programming – “Alyssa follows directions, pays attention to details, and is a self-starter. She also applies what she learns in class, and makes a point of trying to learn as much as she can about technology in general and programming in

particular. Great job in WGP, Alyssa!”

**Jose Membrillo**, Construction Trades – “Jose demonstrates excellent work ethic and great efforts in classwork, on projects and with others.”



**Brooke Flores**, Business Careers – “Brooke possesses excellent work ethic. She always displays a positive attitude and wants to learn from any mistakes she has made. Brooke works ahead of her deadlines and produces excellent quality work.

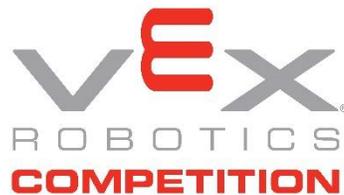
She is self-motivated and works with very little direction.”

**Cahlob Myers**, Welding/Fabrication – “Cahlob is a role model and class leader for his peers.”



## Robotics competition at GTA tomorrow

Grand Traverse Academy will host the Northwest Michigan VEX Robotics “Turning Point” Tournament tomorrow, **Saturday, December 15**. Twenty-four teams from Petoskey, Bellaire and Traverse City (five from GTA) will compete in this non-stop state



qualifying event. Spectators are welcome – the doors open at 7:30 am, with the opening ceremony at 8:45, qualifying rounds and judging beginning at 9:00 and finals at 2:00. An awards ceremony concludes the day at 2:45. Stop by and see our robotics instruction in action!

## Join us in two “no-cost” fundraising opportunities



- Are you shipping holiday packages to out-of-town family members? Do you need paper for greeting cards?



Are you ready to print Christmas letters? Our friends at Northwoods Office Express have generously offered a GTA fundraiser at their store (3311 W. South Airport Road across from the Grand Traverse Mall) on **Friday, December 14 (1:00-6:00 pm) and Saturday, December 15 (9:00 am-3:00 pm)**. Purchase your printer cartridges, office supplies, packing and shipping, or copy center printing at their store on these select days/times and *15 percent of your purchase price will be donated to GTA!*

Coupons are attached to this newsletter to print from home, or you can simply show store staff an electronic copy of the coupon on your phone at checkout. Hard copies of the coupons have been distributed to Elementary students to share with family and friends. Mark your calendars - this is a great way to support GTA at no extra cost while purchasing items or services you already use!

- Are you looking for a gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list? You can pamper them with spa services and benefit GTA at the same time! A GTA parent will donate 30 percent of gift card sales for her Traverse City



businesses, Loving Hand Massage & Spa and LA Nails, to Grand Traverse Academy. Services include massage, facials, manicures and pedicures. Gift cards may be purchased at Loving Hand Massage, 1990 US 31 North (the strip mall on Four-Mile Road across from the Speedway gas station) **Monday-Friday between 11:30 am and 3:30 pm from now until Christmas – or call (231) 620-3338 to place an order and pick up at your convenience**. Just ask for Loan and tell her you’re from Grand Traverse Academy...and feel free to share this information with family and friends – they do not need to have children at GTA to participate.

## Motivational speaker coming to GTA

On Monday, January 7, Bob Holmes, one-man volleyball



team and motivational speaker, will visit with our Junior High and High School students at morning assemblies. In addition to challenging teams of students and teachers to beat him in volleyball, he'll start the new year off with a challenge to our students to "beat the odds" against

depression, bullying, suicidal thoughts, alcohol, drugs or whatever else they may be struggling with. Holmes currently holds the world's record for having played more games in any sport than any other athlete alive, at over 20,000 games of volleyball! More importantly, his message of hope has been seen and heard by over 6,000,000 people. We look forward to hosting him at his first stop in northern Michigan.

## Carpool reminder

Secondary students may be dropped off or picked up in the north parking lot. If you are doing so, however, **please pull into a parking space – do not idle in the parking lot or in front of the walkway**, as it creates congestion and a walking hazard for others. And please be watchful of students, parents and staff who may be walking across the lot.

## Last call for Lost & Found

As you can see, our closet is full and needs to be cleared



out before the Holiday Break. If your child is missing a uniform piece, outerwear, water bottle, lunch bag, etc., please stop by and take a look. Any items remaining after December 21 (with the exception of uniform pieces) will be donated to the Goodwill. The Lost &

Found is located in the vestibule at the junction of the Elementary and Secondary wings.

## Open Enrollment period beginning soon

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2019-20 school year **begins on Monday, January 7 and runs through Thursday, March 14** – with an Enrollment



Lottery planned for Friday, March 15 should the number of applications exceed available spaces. Enrollment Information Meetings for parents of prospective students are scheduled as follows and will take place in the Staff Gathering Room:

**Wednesday, January 16 – 6:00 pm**

**Thursday, February 7 – 9:30 am**

**Wednesday, February 20 – 6:00 pm**

**Monday, March 11 – 6:00 pm**

If you have friends, neighbors or relatives who have school-aged children, please share this information with them! As always, school leaders are happy to meet with parents individually and schedule a personal school tour at their convenience.

## Builders Club plans hot cocoa sale

Next **Friday, December 21**, the GTA Builders Club invites Secondary students and staff to enjoy a warm cup of cocoa before school in their "Cocoa Shop" in MPR 4. From **7:30-8:00 am**, club members will sell hot cocoa for \$1 per cup. Marshmallows may be added for an additional 50¢. Students should be sure to arrive at school in time to enjoy their treat, as they must consume their purchase and dispose of cups in MPR 4 prior to leaving for their 1<sup>st</sup> hour class.

## National Honor Society collecting crayons

GTA's National Honor Society will be helping to collect crayons for a non-profit called the Crayon Initiative! The group melts down old or broken crayons, makes new crayons, and sends



them to children's hospitals across the United States. Crayon collection boxes have been placed in each Elementary hallway and both the Elementary and

Secondary Offices and collection will continue throughout the school year. Feel free to bring in your (not so gently used) broken crayons or crayon pieces, and place them in any of these receptacles any time from now through June.

## Save the date for “Swing Dancing with the Students”!

GTA seniors are planning a first-ever event you won't



want to miss: Swing dancing students have paired up with staff, taught them dance moves and choreographed a routine, with the help of GTA staff

instructors. Six couples will compete against each other as the audience votes for their favorites. Set aside **Saturday, January 19 at 6:00 pm** for a fun evening of dance competition! The \$5 per person admission will support this year's senior trip. Open to the public but suggested for school-aged children to adults.

## Junior high girls' basketball informational meeting, registration deadline next week

Girls in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are interested in playing basketball this season should register by **Wednesday, December 19**. An informational meeting is set for Monday, December 17 from 3:45-4:15 in Orange 2 with Coaches Dix and Kline, and the season begins after our Holiday Recess. Schedules and required registration documents can be found on the [Athletics pages](#) of the GTA website.

## “GTA Cares” holiday giving update

If you have signed up to donate Christmas gifts for the



GTA Cares holiday giving event, your items may be dropped off in the Secondary Office **next Monday-Wednesday,**

**December 17-19**. Recipients may stop by the Onyx 2 classroom on **Thursday, December 20 between 4:00 and 6:00 pm** to pick up donated gifts. If you have questions, please send them to [GTACares@mygta.us](mailto:GTACares@mygta.us) or call the Secondary Office at 932-6038.

## Call for nominations for Michigan Charter School awards

Each year, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) invites the charter community to recognize outstanding educators in their schools. With 300 charter schools, 10,000 teachers and 1,500 administrators delivering excellent education to Michigan students, they want to hear how they are making an impact. Now is your chance to [make a nomination](#) for 2019 Michigan Charter School Teacher or Administrator of the Year. Nominations will be collected **through Friday, February 1, 2019** for both awards.

## Health Department screenings scheduled

The Grand Traverse County Health Department will administer free, routine vision and hearing tests here at school according to the following schedule:

| Grades        | Hearing Tests | Vision Tests   |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Preschool     | January 7-10  | February 11-14 |
| K, 2, 4       | January 7-10  |                |
| 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 |               | February 11-14 |

If you would like to have your child screened and they are not in one of the grades listed, or if you prefer to not to have your child's hearing or vision tested, please call the Elementary office at 995-0665.

## Scholarship auditions announced for Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp is a non-profit summer school of the arts specializing in two-week arts programs for middle and high school students. Students have the opportunity to audition for a camp scholarship right here at GTA! Last year, 20 Grand Traverse Academy students auditioned, and over \$6,500 in scholarships were offered to our students, ranging from \$200-\$475. A representative from Blue Lake will be available to audition our students on **Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in the GTA Band Room at 8:00 am sharp**. Students are invited to attend a presentation about the camp first and the auditions will immediately follow. All students will be considered for scholarship aid toward tuition to attend the camp. If your child is interested in auditioning, please sign the attached permission slip and have them return it to Mr. Floering by Friday, January 11.



Our **Box Tops for Education** collection has slowed down a bit since the beginning of the school year! Remember that each Box Tops coupon is worth 10¢ to our school – throwing one away is like throwing away a dime. And with all of our families collecting, they can add up fast. With the holidays upon us, we'll be doing more cooking, baking, cleaning and storage and using more participating products. Check the [product list](#) and start clipping! Why not ask grandparents, aunts and uncles to collect them, too? And don't forget that our Elementary Box Tops contest is still going on...the classroom that collects the most completed collection sheets will be treated to hot chocolate and cookies!

## Ongoing events

**Fill the Pantry Jeans Days** – January 17, March 21, May 9

**Elementary Pizza Days** – December 20, January 24, February 7 & 21, March 7 & 21, April 11 & 25, and May 9 & 23 (order forms with payment due the Tuesday before Pizza Day), \$1.50 per slice

**Secondary Pizza Days** – Every Tuesday (purchase tickets before school outside the Secondary office on Pizza Day), \$1.50 per slice

**Secondary Taco Days** – Every Thursday (purchase tickets before school outside the Secondary office on Taco Day), \$1.50 each

**Bagel Sales** – Every Wednesday at the Junction of the Elementary & Secondary Wings, \$1.50 each

**School Tools Store Hours** – Every Thursday, 7:50-8:25 am, Pink 3

**Builders Club Meetings** – First & Third Thursday of Every Month, 3:50-4:20 pm, MPR 4

**Key Club Meetings** – Every Thursday, 7:40 am, Bronze 2