



December 21, 2018
Volume 19
Issue 15

A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy
Families

Dates to remember

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

Monday, January 7 – Open Enrollment Period Begins

Monday, January 7 – Bob Holmes (One-Man Volleyball Team) Assemblies, 9:00 am Junior High & 11:00 High School

Week of January 7 – Health Department Vision & Hearing Screening (see related story for details)

Thursday, January 17 – Fill the Pantry Jeans Day

Friday, January 18 – Junior High Girls’ Sleepover, 9:00 pm-7:00 am, GTA

Saturday, January 19 – Swing Dancing with the Students, 6:00 pm, Big Gym

A message from the superintendent

Dear GTA Families,

As we prepare for all of the wonderful things that come with the Holiday Break, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you for an amazing start to the 2018-19 school year. Thank you ever so much for sharing your children with us! I have seen wonderful things taking shape here at school, and look forward to what 2019 will bring for us all.

Your children have really embraced the season of giving! Secondary students worked with Elementary classrooms this week to build and decorate gingerbread houses in a great K-12 connecting activity. Elementary students visited a local nursing home to spread holiday cheer. We have had many parent volunteers in the building and assisting with field trip transportation.

Thank you all for the things that you do to make GTA an incredible community!

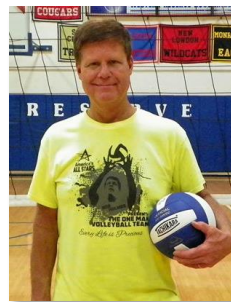
Please enjoy the Holiday Break, travel safely, and know that we will be ready on January 7th to see everyone back at school where they are safe, loved, and learning!

Peace,

Jim

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.

Last call for Lost & Found

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 Drawing planned for Friday, March 15 should the number of applications exceeds 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 available to meet with parents individually if these dates and times are not convenient with their schedules.

“No-cost” fundraising opportunity offered

Are you looking for a last-minute 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.



I was accepted!

Congratulations to the following, who have recently received college letters of acceptance for Fall 2019:

**Maddison Fishel – Cedarville University
& Northwestern Michigan College**

Rae Tull – Grand Valley State University



Ms. Layne's class completes financial literacy program

Our local 4Front Credit Union has partnered with Banzai



Literacy to bring financial literacy to the classroom. The interactive program teaches students about the importance of budgeting to be able to afford the things you need (with money left for things you want) and establishing good credit to be able to borrow, if necessary, to make major purchases like cars and homes. Ms. Layne's Upper Elementary students were the first at GTA to participate and were treated with a pizza party to celebrate their "graduation" from the program. 4Front



staff members were impressed with the questions they had for them, as well as their suggestions for improvement!

Junior High girls' sleepover planned

GTA girls in the 7th & 8th grades should mark their



calendars for **Friday, January 18**, and plan to attend a fun-filled

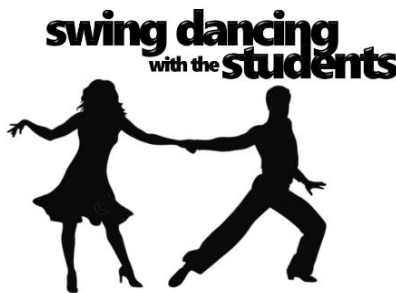
sleepover right here at school! The \$20 per person admission fee includes snacks, a movie, games, creative activities and plenty of time to enjoy each other's company. The evening begins at 9:00 pm and parents should plan to pick up their daughters by 7:00 am on Saturday. Reservations and payment may be made in the Secondary office, and girls should bring a sleeping bag, pillow and air mattress or pad.

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. The 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 and suggested for school-aged children to adults.

Ongoing events

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

Elementary Pizza Days – 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

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 accepted **through Friday, February 1, 2019** for both awards.



Congratulations to Mrs. Dix's class for turning in the most completed sheets of Box Tops coupons in our year-end competition, earning hot chocolate and cookies! With 15 sheets at 50 Box Tops per sheet, that's 750 coupons, worth \$75 for our school. **Ms. West's class** came in at a very close second place with 13 sheets, or \$65. But don't stop collecting! Our Elementary Box Tops contest is still going on...the classroom that collects the most completed collection sheets by the end of the school year will also get a special treat. Check the [product list](#) and start clipping! Why not ask grandparents, aunts and uncles to collect them, too? If you don't have an Elementary student, a collection box is located just inside the Elementary entrance.

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.

Builders Club spreads holiday cheer

Grand Traverse Academy's Builders Club made 132



greeting cards for the long-term residents of the Grand Traverse Pavilions. Mrs. Odziana, club advisor, plans to deliver them over the weekend to help

make their holidays a little brighter.

Attention budding writers!

A new fiction class begins on January 10 through Northwestern Michigan College's "College for Kids" program. Co-created with The National Writers Series, "[Writing Stories that Rock](#)," is for students in grades 6-8 who have a passion for writing. It's promised to be a fantastic eight-week class that will encourage budding writers to take their passion to the next level. Check the link above for a course description and registration/scholarship information.

