



MISSION STATEMENT: Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education ensuring educational quality for all families willing to enter into a partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.

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Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.

Please email information for the SF newsletter to Kathy Hunt at khunt@gtacs.org

Please email information for system-wide distribution to Cathy Nelson at cnelson@gtacs.org

Christ – Above All Things

From the Counselor

Happy Advent SF families,

I hope your Thanksgiving time was filled with food, family and fun!

I am always amazed and humbled by the faith of my children. Dinner dishes and kitchen clean up usually involves some tunes being sung by the Maday children. Bible songs are some of our favorites as they usually involve motions which are always a plus! On one particular night after finishing a great rendition of Zacchaeus, my Anna Cate said, “Oh, Mom, wouldn’t it be great if Jesus came to OUR house???” She was ALL excited about the idea! My first thought was all the cat hair that needed to be vacuumed and then I thought...would I REALLY be ready to see Jesus. My house, cat hair and kitchen cleanliness didn’t matter but what about my heart, my soul? Was I REALLY ready to be face to face with MY Savior?

As we are finishing our first week of Advent, I encourage you all to prepare yourself for meeting our Savior. It may be time to start a new Advent tradition! Many times it feels as if Advent is a forgotten season as we fill our days with trimming the tree, searching for the best sale, and baking those tasty treats. In addition to these activities, spend some time in soulful preparation not only for His coming at Christmas but for His second coming. Commit to saying the rosary as a family, serve Gladmeals, go to Confession... Advent Season is underway; make this one special for you and your family.

Counseling Updates:

CHEMISTRY STUDY GROUP is starting next week! Every Tuesday and Thursday, a student led study group will meet immediately after school. If you need additional help, or just have a question, don’t hesitate to stop by. Study groups are a great resource which will continue throughout your education.

Upcoming deadlines:

Remember the **Planning for your Future** guide I handed out several weeks ago? It would be a good time to start working on that resume’ and looking for volunteer opportunities! The holidays and especially Advent is a special time to give and serve others. Don’t forget about GLAD Friends.

Fireside Catholic Publishing Essay Contest has a deadline fast approaching. We can submit one essay on "*How your Catholic education has influenced your life?*" To date, I have received NO essays. If you would like to be considered for this scholarship, please submit an essay by **Monday, December 5th**. Girls State applications are available in the office for Junior's. Glad Friend Applications are due on **Monday, December 12th**. If you are a sophomore, junior, or senior and are interested in befriending a Holy Angels or IC student, please pick up an application in the main office. This looks GREAT on a resume, may meet Christian Service requirements, and is just a SUPER way to give back to the little ones in our system. This is a serious commitment which begins at the start of the second semester. If you are interested and have more questions, stop by so we can discuss.

Schedule changes for second semester should be made prior to the end of this semester. Many classes are closed and a change MAY not be possible, but if you would like to discuss your options, please see me in the next couple of weeks.

Know I am praying for you all as we take this journey together,
Beth Maday

Choir News

The choir voted in their new name. They picked Dei Cantanti which translated means God's Singers other runners up choices were Bella Voce, and chamber choir. One student nominated Choir of Awesomeness. In addition to picking a name Dei Cantanti also picked out a choir code. The guiding characteristics of this choir are **P**assion, **R**esponsibility, **t**eAmwork, **f**amIly, **r**e**S**pectful, **E**xcellence. The capitol letters fit into the word Praise. Dei Cantanti will be performing this Saturday night at SF's winter festival as well as in a concert hosted by St Francis Church Dec 17th at 6:30 which is a free concert and all are invited.

Missing Black Skirts

The office is missing 3 black skirts from Express that we have loaned out to girls and have not had them returned. Could you please look around and see if they might be at your home.

Free Babysitting

The Girl Scout Troop 440 (based out of SEAS) is undertaking a babysitting service project we would like to offer to GTACS families. We have received permission from Matt Baumann to use IC's Munson after school care facility on Saturday, December 10 from 10 am to 3 pm. The scouts (which earned the Babysitting Badge as Junior Girl Scouts and almost all are certified through the Red Cross Babysitting Course) will be offering free babysitting to GTACS parents so that they may do some Christmas shopping. Donations to the troop are appreciated but not necessary. Parents will need to reserve a spot for their potty-trained child by contacting me at either 938-2152 or bethmariefriend@yahoo.com.

Bowling Team

The SF Bowling Team is looking for a few more members. If you are interested please go to the Athletic office for more information.

Rugby Social this Sunday

There will be a Rugby social for all who are interested in the sport. It will be held at the Rugby property on River Rd. this Sunday @ 3:00. For more information contact Coach Benson @ 342-5085.

Upcoming:

12/8 (Thursday) Celebrating the Feast of Immaculate Conception @ SF church with HA and community at 9:30 AM.

Adjusted schedule:

1 st	7:50 – 8:27 (37 min)
2 nd	8:32 – 9:09 (37 min)
Mass	9:30 – 10:30 (2 nd hour teachers are responsible for their students)
3 rd	10:40 – 11:17 (37 min)
4 th	11:22 – 11:59 (37 min)
5 th	12:04 – 12:24 (20 min)
Lunch	12:24 – 12:59 (35 min)
5 th cont.	12:59 – 1:19 (20 min)
6 th	1:24 – 2:01 (37 min)
7 th	2:06 – 2:42 (37 min)

Week of Dec. 12 – Progress Reports go out
12/16 (Friday) Jean Day