Thank you to the Plymouth Pioneers who presented at the October 15 Board of Education meeting: Principal Margaret Doan; PYP/PLTW Coordinator Jen Servoss; Plymouth Pioneers: Elizabeth Suarez, Prestyn Simons, Kaya Floyd, Noah Wigren, Porter Pritchard and Alexis Hussey.

The title of their presentation was “Our PYP Journey to Transdisciplinary Learning.” During their presentation, the students talked about building a classroom community, transdisciplinary themes, PYP attitudes, commitment, key concepts and approaches to learning, action and more. These very poised, articulate 5th graders were among the first class to begin their IB Primary Years Programme journey in Kindergarten, which means they were the first MPS class to journey through the entire elementary IB PYP process.

November Days Off & Elementary Half Day —
⇒ November 6 — NO SCHOOL (MPS staff in prof. development)
⇒ November 8 — MPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HALF DAY
  (Elementary Parent-Teacher conferences in afternoon & evening)
  (Middle & High Schools have full day of school on November 8)
⇒ November 22 & 23 — NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Community Stadium Press Box Update

As we continue to debate the press box settlement from the insurance adjustor and begin the dialogue on the design of the new press box, here are some details about the added costs relative to the required codes today that were not in place when the original press box was built.

The construction of a new press box of the same or larger size requires the same codes be met as that of a school facility. Codes that include elevator access if a second floor exists, an upgraded stairwell to meet dimensional requirements, a new fire alarm and fire suppression system and new mechanical systems to comply with ventilation requirements. These add over 50% new costs to the facility. The old facility was insured for almost $400,000, which indicates that the insurance company valued the old press box at that amount. Knowing there are over $250,000 of new code requirements, equipment that needs to be replaced and overall expenses related to the rebuild, we would like to be reimbursed as close as possible to the full insured amount, which was not the case with the initial amount from the insurance corporation.

When design is complete and an estimate is determined, we will share the detailed costs so all District’s stakeholders are informed.

For those who may be interested, watch for information very soon about an opportunity to donate toward rebuilding the Midland Community Stadium press box.
This summer MPS had several seniors that participated in the Summer Internship with Michigan State University at the St. Andrews office here in Midland. These students did a variety of projects that included writing, programming and chemistry research. On October 13 the American Chemical Society Midland Chapter held their Fall Meeting and Research Poster Presentation at SVSU. Three MPS seniors participated in the poster presentation session sharing their summer Michigan State University Internship research on new battery applications. Kathryn Altes and Isabel Chaput of H. H. Dow High and Dominik Servinski of Midland High presented their research.

Congratulations to these three outstanding MPS students on their hard work and excellent presentation skills. Thank you to Dr. Adina Dumitrascu, MSU St. Andrews Midland, for her guidance during the summer internship and these poster preparations.

Woodcrest Has Spirit!! On October 11, 3rd-5th grade students attended a special assembly with three Saginaw Spirit players. Students walked into an assembly where Spirit players Blade Jenkins, Hayden Davis, Reagan O’Grady, and Charley Porter were engaged in a heated battle of floor hockey! Mrs. LaCourt, Woodcrest PE teacher, asked the players to share their hockey experience and demonstrate the fundamentals of hockey and floor hockey. This assembly was a great way to kick off the elementary floor hockey unit for upper elementary students. Several Woodcrest students were invited to play alongside the Spirit players. Charley Porter, a former MPS student, played hockey in the Midland Amateur Hockey League and was happy to share her experience here in Midland as a girl playing hockey. She encouraged many girls to come out and play with her against the Spirit players and they had a blast! Thank you Saginaw Spirit players for your time and providing our students with a memorable experience!

The Michigan World Language Association held its annual conference in Lansing last week and JMS Spanish teacher Lynn Heil and MHS French teacher Amy Rankin were there to share their teaching expertise with colleagues from all around the Mitten State. Señora Heil and Madame Rankin presented on building target language classroom libraries and Madame Rankin presented on the deskless classroom. They received positive feedback from session attendees, and one teacher even told them, “you have truly inspired me!” The dynamic language duo is already making plans for their presentations at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in March 2019.
Dow High’s FIRST Robotics Team 2619 at Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival

Dow High’s Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, partnered with Bullock Creek’s robotics team to host demonstrations & STEM activities at the Dow Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival at Delta College on October 12 & 13.

Hundreds of middle school students, elementary students and adults learned about robots and engineering through fun interactive games and activities.

MPS Shining Star nominations are being accepted for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students.

Click on this link to nominate an MPS team member today:
https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form

MPS FLYER BOARD

A number of years ago, MPS ceased sending community flyers with students in Friday folders. In its place, we started the MPS Flyer Board under the Community tab on the MPS website. Our MPS families are great at looking at our Flyer Board for lots of fun and informational community flyers that we post as they come in daily/weekly/monthly. There are many great community opportunities posted on the flyer Board right now. Like what you may ask … tennis, basketball, hockey, bowling, skating and more. If you haven’t had a chance to look at the MPS Flyer Board lately, take a moment to click here:
https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers/

Last week Northeast and Jefferson Middle Schools came together to raise money for a worthy cause, Wishes for Wirth. In total, $828 was raised for the family during the two football games. Additionally, the Northeast Student Council raised $500 by hosting a tailgate before the 8th grade football game, $1700 was raised at the MHS v. DHS football game and $10,000 was raised at Saturday’s Spaghetti Dinner. Over $12,500 was raised for Tyler’s family in less than one week. Wow! A huge THANK YOU to all who participated and donated to Wishes for Wirth!
2018 Great Lakes Bay Bot Bash!

The 5th Annual FIRST Robotics Great Lakes Bay Bot Bash Saturday, October 27
9:00 AM to 6 PM at H.H. Dow High School

Free Admission Everyone is welcome!
Have a senior who is planning to head off to college next year?

**Dow High is hosting the annual Financial Aid Night for Seniors in Midland County on Thursday, November 8 starting at 6:00 PM.**

This is an important and informational program to assist Midland County parents and students complete the FASFA financial aid app for college. Reps from both Delta College and Saginaw Valley will be there to help guide participants, step-by-step, through the process.

Call Dow High at 989-923-5386 to register in advance so a computer can be reserved for you OR email Joe Moore at moorejg@midlandps.org.

**IMPORTANT:** It is strongly recommended to create an account, username & password and an FSA ID# before attending this event at: www.fafaid.ed.gov.

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### Math in the Mail

Math in the Mail develops math skills in three-year-olds by providing the tools needed for parents/caregivers to help their child learn at home through play. Math in the Mail is part of a focus to prepare our students for K-12 STEM experiences and careers in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

**What do the math kits include?**
- A book
- Materials designed for hands-on play
- Ideas for hands-on activities using the provided materials
- Ideas for extension activities using items found in any home
- ‘Tools for Talking’, a guide on how to use the materials provided
- A description of how these activities help children learn

**Who qualifies for the FREE program?**

To qualify to receive Math in the Mail for FREE*, families must:
- Live in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland or Saginaw county
- Have a three year old in the household (children born 9/2/14 - 9/1/15 are eligible this year)
- Have a household income that is at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines**

**Where can families enroll?**
- Visit www.mathinthemail.org
- Call 989-399-7415 to enroll over the phone

**Those who do not qualify for the free program can subscribe at www.mathinthemail.org!**

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**wise thought to ponder ...**

"Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much.”

— Blaise Pascal