With the beginning of the new school year comes many new beginnings for our programs. One great example is the new construction project of the building trades house from the ground up (literally).

The photo below is this year’s class, their teacher Kevin Dodick and Ashley, the young woman for whom they are building this year’s home. Last week the students had a chance to meet Ashley and hear her amazing story.

5004 West Wackerly Street will be the site of this year’s house. Drive by throughout the year and check out the progress. It will be exciting to see Ashley’s finished home built by these talented students. Stay Tuned!

Congratulations to H.H. Dow Senior, Ayana Terauchi, who earned the honor of competing at the 31st Annual National High School Soloist Competition in Washington DC in August. Ayana was one of eight outstanding high school flutists who were selected nationwide as finalists on the basis of their recorded preliminary auditions to compete at the 2015 convention in Washington DC.

Judges awarded Ayana the honor of 1st place over all. In addition to 1st Place Nationally, Ayana earned 1st place as the best performance of the newly commissioned work. Congratulations to Ayana!

Eastlawn invited Midland High football, band and pompon students to come as part of the new school year Attendance Kick Off assembly. These inspiring high school students spoke about the importance of being on time every day and how that positively impacts their education and their life. MHS students shared how it is important to go to school so you can be part of great experiences like football, band and pompon. Pom performed their routine as the band played the MHS fight song. The band members then taught the students how to march and chant to drumline. At the end of assembly, football and pom made a tunnel for the kids to walk through on their way out as the band continued to play. What a great way to inspire these young learners about the importance of being at school on time every day.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month at Grace A. Dow Memorial Library!

If you or your child need a library card for the public library, now is the perfect opportunity to get one! With a card, you and your child have access to many electronic and print resources. The electronic resources can be accessed by students for assignments both during and after the school day only if they have a card. Stop by your child’s school office to pick up an application. Students can also get an application from their school library. Please remember that: residency rules apply, the form needs to be returned directly to the public library (child and parent must both be present), and a photo ID with current address is required as proof of residency. Midland Public Schools would like to thank Grace A. Dow Memorial Library for their partnership in supporting our MPS family.

Have questions or comments?
Click on the MPS Connect! icon on our website (www.midlandps.org) or call our office at 923-5026. Let’s Connect!

MPS Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for MPS Staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. http://midps.org/shiningstarform
Congratulations to our **September Shining Stars**
- **Billie Dumont-Oliver**, MPS-TV Specialist
- **Jason Merry**, 6th Grade Teacher at Northeast Middle School

These deserving staff members will receive their Shining Star award at tonight's Board of Education Meeting. Thank you Billie and Jason for going “above and beyond” to make MPS a better place for students!

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**The Redesigned SAT**

**Parent Information Session**

**Thursday, October 8**
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Central Auditorium

Sarah Thaler, Director of the Michigan SAT, College Board will present a brief session to inform Grade 9-11 parents of changes to the redesigned SAT Suite of Assessments. There will be a time for questions and answers. Contact Jenna Pacek (923-5027) for more information.

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**The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program**

Curious students want to know more!

What does curiosity look like?

- Investigating
- Researching
- Asking questions
- Reading
- Exploring
- Experimenting

**What are you CURIOUS about????**

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**Reminder … Office 365 is Available for MPS Students & Staff at No Cost for your Personal Computing Devices**

As you may remember from last year, MPS has partnered with Microsoft to offer—at no cost—subscriptions to Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for all MPS students and staff members. Every student/staff member in the district can download Microsoft Office on up to 5 computers running Windows or OSX, and Office apps on mobile devices including Android and iOS devices, enabling them to get their work done virtually at any time and from anywhere.

The web address that you would use to download Microsoft Office Pro Plus through Microsoft Office 365 is as follows: [https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education](https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education)

Click on the link that is labelled “Get started for free” and on the next page you will need to enter your students email address to start the process. After it verifies that your student qualifies for this benefit, which all MPS students do, it will prompt the student to log in with their Office 365 User ID and password, which is their MPS email address and password.

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“**pearl**” of wisdom ...

“If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.”
— Yogi Berra

“The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.”
— Vince Lombardi