Thank you Midland Public Schools Board of Education!

January is School Board Recognition Month, a time nationally we take to salute the work of our school board members and to celebrate public education. As you know, this is an exciting and challenging time in public education. Midland Public Schools’ Board of Education members develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our educational system. Please join us when you see our Board members in the community, at a school function/sporting event, in a local store, etc. to say thank you for their service, dedication and countless hours of service to ensure Midland Public Schools’ students climb higher, reach further, achieve more!

We want every MPS Stakeholder to know about these exciting MPS initiatives!
- STEM Strategic Plan Unveiled
- STEM Building Design Plans
- MPS STEM Strategic Plan Receives Local Grants ($3 million over next three years)

Congratulations to Linda Murray, MSBOA District 5 Orchestra Teacher of the Year

Linda Murray, Midland Public Schools’ Orchestra Teacher/Director, was recognized during a December concert as the Teacher of the Year for District 5 by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA). What a great honor! Ms. Murray has taught orchestra and band in District 5 since 1986 as a member of our Midland Public Schools’ music staff. She currently teaches orchestra at Carpenter, Chestnut Hill, Eastlawn, Woodcrest, Jefferson Middle School and Northeast. In addition, Linda is one of three nominees to be Orchestra Teacher of the Year for the entire State of Michigan! Congratulations, Ms. Murray, on this wonderful award and we wish you all the best with your State nomination!

Recently Dow High art students (Peter Carras, Carolina Donoso, Lydia Hershauer, Linda Pavlock, Jaqueline Laurin and Natalie Laurin) and art teacher, Curt Gledhill, painted the new MPS logo on a wall at the MPS Administration Center. It looks great! Thank you for sharing your artistic talent with us!

Are you or do you know someone who is looking for work during the school day?

MPS is looking for...
- Long-Term Substitutes for Spanish and Special Education
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Paraprofessionals
- Substitute Bus Drivers

For More Information contact Human Resources at 923-5021.

This is an Important Week at MPS
- Best wishes Dow and Midland High students on your final exams this week!
- End of Semester 1 for all students: Thursday, January 28
- NO SCHOOL FRIDAY Teacher Records Day —January 29

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!
Recently Superintendent Sharrow, DHS Principal Pam Kastl and MHS Principal Jeff Jaster visited the Building Trades house at the corner of Dublin and Wackerly. It is always exciting to see a house being built and the skills and knowledge our students gain through the year! (In the photo to the right, Principal Kastl chats with Ashley, the homeowner.)

Congratulations to our January Shining Stars ...

- Kim McMahan, Adams Spanish Teacher
- Sharon Blalock, Eastlawn Paraprofessional

These dedicated, hard working MPS staff members were recognized at the Monday, January 18, board meeting. Thank you, Kim and Sharon, for going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students! Please keep the Shining Star nominations coming in. We have many, many dedicated, hard working employees. Please take a moment to let us know why you think an MPS staff member is a Shining Star! Here is a link to the nomination form: http://midps.org/shiningstarform

H. H. Dow High & Carpenter Street Schools’ Fun and Memorable Collaboration

Sarah Hechlik's Writing Workshop class and Curt Gledhill's 2D Art classes at Dow High partnered with Chelsea Sauve's Carpenter Elementary kindergarten students to create illustrated children's books tailored for each child. Dow High students hosted and presented their books to Carpenter students on Thursday, January 14th in the Dow High Media Center. The 75 students had an amazing time collaborating with each other and getting to know their Carpenter friends.

The Dow High Child Development class partnered with the Northeast Life Management class to create burp cloths and baby blankets to donate to the Linus project. Great job!

First grade students at Carpenter Street School are learning about different cultures, relationships and the interconnectedness of humans around the world in their PYP unit – WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME! Students were treated to a special presentation on life in Nepal on January 19! Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Marcia Shannon gave the students a firsthand glimpse into life in Nepal. Students learned about the culture, food, homes, transportation, animals, schools and jobs in Nepal. Students learned the official greeting in Nepal – “NAMASTE!” Students also got the opportunity to try Nepal’s traditional national dish, Dal Bhat (lentils and rice)! In addition to Nepal, the first grade students will also be learning more about the United States, China and Mexico!

2016-17 Kindergarten Enrollment Plans are Underway!

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before September 1, 2016 please plan to attend a parent orientation meeting at your child’s school. If you know of a neighbor and/or friend’s child who would qualify, please pass on this information. Thank you!

- January 27: 6:00 p.m. Woodcrest
- February 2: 5:30 p.m. Chestnut Hill, Eastlawn, Plymouth
- February 2: 6:00 p.m. Carpenter, Siebert
- February 3: 5:30 p.m. Adams

Are you interested in finding out about our 4-year-old preschool program for 2016-17? Attend the Preschool Orientation on Tuesday, February 2 from 5:30-6:30 at Adams Elementary.
M-STEP Parent Report Video – NOW AVAILABLE

To continue the Department’s commitment to support teachers, parents, and students throughout this transition to higher expectations for all students, a newly developed video is now available which summarizes M-STEP and walks viewers through how to read and interpret student scores within the M-STEP Parent Report. … The M-STEP Parent Report Communication videos are available on the MDE M-STEP web page at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM55xZ-ZuNU

Plymouth Elementary kindergarten classes recently completed an IB PYP Unit of Inquiry: How the World Works. The students focused on plants and what plants need in order to survive. Throughout the unit, students had the opportunity to grow their own plants, investigate seeds, explore a variety of books about plants and seeds and learn about the parts of the plant. While this learning was taking place, students gained an understanding about the important role plants play in our lives. With that discovery, students quickly realized the importance that farmers play in growing plants that feed the planet. Here is one of the letters/photos the students drew and sent to local growers, thanking them for the important job they are doing for all of us. Great job kindergarten students!

When you are seeking information about the bond projects: current, completed and upcoming, check out the bond projects page on the MPS website: https://new.midlandps.org/bond-

Nominations are now being accepted for 2016 SVL Teacher of the Year awards (high school only). Go to the MPS website for more information. Nomination deadline: March 4.

Last Week was an Action-Filled Week for Adams Atoms!

Students were busy taking action with a special focus on collecting water for the city of Flint. Bottled water will be collected through Thursday, January 28th. Thursday’s “No Bullying” assembly presented by Mr. Kelly Presson fit perfectly with this month’s focus on peaceful resolutions. Students learned an important acronym - S.A.F.E:

 S - Stand tall & speak bravely.
 A - Ask for help from friends and teachers.
 F - Figure out your choices.
 E - End it calmly by not losing your temper.

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C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s t o . . .

for being this year’s Midland Public Schools’ 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Great Lakes Bay Region Scholarship Recipients.

We are proud of you!

Eastlawn Student Council worked with Mrs. Carley, Ms. Flamont, and Jackie Warner to promote nonviolence and the PYP year long theme of peace. All students were encouraged to wear tie dye and are pictured in a peace sign to promote acts of kindness, nonviolence, and peaceful behavior.