March 21, 2016

Eight Impressive MPS Students Excelled at the March 5 National Council of Women in Technology Aspirations Awards at MSU. This award is given to only 40 girls in the entire State.

Congratulations to Midland High’s Katie Wenban, Katie Yats, Gina Ennis, Rebekah Walter, and Hannah Striebel, and Dow High’s Maansi Dasari, Bailey Flint and Caitlyn Myers. Also, congratulations to Maansi who was selected as National Semi-finalist for this award.

Kudos to these and all of the MPS students who competed in this prestigious event.

Congratulations to the Midland High Boys’ Varsity basketball team and coaches as they continue their post-season playoff journey!!

This year’s District Championship victory made them the District Champs for three of the last four years. Wow!

Noah Behm and Hunter Grannum finished 5th in breaststroke and diving. Dow’s three relay teams finished 2nd, 3rd and 9th.

Kudos to all of these impressive, hard working athletes!

On Saturday, March 5th, Midland High Students competed at and won Michigan State University’s 3rd annual computer programming competition beating out teams from all over Michigan. The winning team of Max Dykhuizen, Charlie Light, and Matt Lile was the only team to complete all the problems. They finished the last problem with only 47 seconds left—a buzzer beater in the world of computer science.

Congrats to this impressive team and their coach, Bob Fox!

March 5 was a busy weekend for MPS students. Also that weekend, eight Dow High students went to Traverse City to participate in the Michigan District of Key Club International’s Student Leadership Conference. There, Anna Mylvaganam was recognized as this year’s Outstanding President. They won several other awards including the Year in Review contest and the pop tab collection with 212 pounds of pop tabs, which was nearly 100 pounds more than the runner up.

Anna Mylvaganam & Samantha Damocles were elected to represent our state as two of the four students to serve on the Michigan District’s Executive Board. Congratulations!

Looking for information about the Midland Public Schools’ Young 5’s Program for the 2016-17 school year? Here is a link to the Young 5’s Program on our website including the registration materials and a frequently asked questions document: [http://midps.org/kdg](http://midps.org/kdg)

Here is the link for information and registration materials for the MPS 4-Year Old Pre-School Program for the 2016-17 school year: [http://midps.org/preschool](http://midps.org/preschool)

Congratulations to the 15 Dow High student athletes and their coaches who competed at the Swimming Division 2 State Championships at SVSU on Saturday, March 12. This impressive Dow High team finished 6th in the State.

Congratulations to Nehemiah Mork who repeated his win as Division 2 State Champion in both the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events for the 2nd year in a row. Wow!

Caitlyn Myers, Bailey Flint, Maansi Dasari

Kudos to these and all of the MPS students who competed in this prestigious event.

Katie Yats, Katie Wenban, Rebecca Walter, Hannah Striebel, Gina Ennis

Caitlyn Myers, Bailey Flint, Maansi Dasari

We’re rooting for you!
Each year Hollie Brock, third grade teacher at Woodcrest Elementary, creates a special “March is Reading Month” theme for her class. She surprised her class earlier this month by dressing up as Ms. Frizzle, from the popular books and television series The Magic School Bus. In addition to dressing up for the day, she also made a “Magic School Bus” of her own out of cardboard and construction paper that served as a reading nook for students. A lucky winner of a classroom drawing will even be able to take her creation home at the end of the month.

Congratulations to the Jefferson students, Victoria Leiti, Shichi Dhar, and Anish Middha, who represented Jefferson and competed at the Regional Challenge of “You Be the Chemist” at Delta College. Anish Middha will move on to the State Challenge which will be held Saturday, April 16th at Saginaw Valley State University. Great job Huskies!!

Midland High and Dow High CAD students did very well at the Delta College Student Technical Solutions competition on March 17.

Congratulations to:
AutoCAD Mechanical
Richard Wall - 1st Place (DHS)

Parametric Solid Modeling
Ben Haut - 1st Place (MHS)
Kevin Coombs - 3rd Place (MHS)

Congratulations ... Way to go!

Midland High students earning medals in Detroit included Scott Joffre and Jonah Dykhuizen. Devin Granzo Placed overall for the State & Max Dykhuizen will be competing at the national level in Nashville next month! Congratulations to all of those who participated in this year’s State DECA conference and best wishes to those going to Nashville in April as you prepare for the next leg of your DECA journey!

2016-17 School Year Calendar Status
The 2016-17 school year calendar DRAFT is on the agenda for tonight’s Board of Education meeting. If the calendar is approved by the Board, please watch for it to be posted to the MPS website tomorrow.

MHS student leaders attended a regional leadership conference in Livonia in March. The students networked with other MI schools, shared ideas and gathered information about student programs that can be implemented at MHS.

Over 90 Dow High students participated in the Marketing Interview Day. Students received a minimum of two individual interviews, one group interview and participated in a seminar where they created LinkedIn pages and received information on how to Skype and telephone interview. Thank you to all of our Dow High parents, local businesses, the ESA and Northwood University for interviewing and providing information for the student seminar. The day was a huge success and would not have been possible without the support of our community!
Midland Public Schools' Teams Excel at Midland FIRST Robotics District Competition

The H.H. Dow High and Midland High School robotics teams competed at the local FIRST Robotics competition at Dow High School on March 18 & 19. This amazing competition was high energy, with more than 40 impressive 120-pound robots from all over the State competing toward the same goal – to breach their opponent’s defenses and capture the opposing tower.

The Midland High School 2nd year team, ‘Like a Boss’ (5509), was ranked 12th at the end of qualification matches. They were picked to be part of the 4th place alliance team that reached the quarterfinals during the competition. Team 5509 also received the Excellence in Engineering Award sponsored by Delphi. This award celebrates an elegant and advantageous machine feature. The MHS Robotics Team is coached by MHS Math Teacher, Ben Younkin.

The H.H. Dow High Team, ‘The Charge’ (2619), was part of the winning alliance, placing first in the District competition and earning a spot in the Michigan State FIRST Robotics Competition in April. ‘The Charge’ won the UL Industrial Safety Award for having built & implemented a culture of safety fundamentals within the team and helping to increase awareness in the broader community. ‘The Charge’ also won the District Chairman’s Award. This is the most prestigious award at FIRST and it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. The Chairman’s Award looks for sustained impact over many years – the activities and outreach of the current team members, as well as the team's many alumni, helped make this award possible. In addition, two Dow High students, Cameron Curtis and Kiley Mowry, were selected as Team 2619’s Dean’s List 2016 nominees. The Dean’s List Award celebrates outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining FIRST ideals is exemplary. One of these students, Kiley Mowry, was selected to move on to the State competition as a Dean’s List Award semi-finalist. Kiley is Dow High's first ever Robotics Dean's List Semi-Finalist! Dow High's Team 2619, The Charge, is coached by DHS Math Teacher, Sean Murray. This is The Charge’s 9th year of competition.

Congratulations to both of our MPS Robotics Teams on their incredible accomplishments!

Dow High & the other hosting robotics teams from the Great Lakes Bay Region did an amazing job hosting this exciting event for more than 40 schools from across the State of Michigan. Thank you to the Dow High staff and students for their support and flexibility, which helped make this event possible. Thanks also to our partner host teams – 3770 from Bullock Creek, 703 from Saginaw and 4819 from Mt. Pleasant!

Congratulations to Jefferson Middle Schools’ 7th grader, Christine O’Donnell!

Sunday afternoon Christine was one of five Michigan 7th graders honored by the Michigan Reading Association at a banquet in Detroit. The association gave her a medal and published her story (called "Hard Rock Epiphany") in the 2016 edition of their magazine, Kaleidoscope, which showcases Michigan students’ best writing pieces from grades 1-12. Way to write, Christine! We are all very proud of you!

The Dow High Update earned a Silver Crown from Columbia Scholastic Press Association at their spring conference last week. The print edition was among 14 other schools across the US to earn the Silver Crown, only 1 of 2 in Michigan. The staff also won a Certificate of Merit for Caption Writing; Megan Werner won 2nd Place for News Page Design Portfolio of work; and Julia Ahrens and Mary Noble won First Place for Photo layout—Two or more pages.

A new first … this is our first ever 4-page Monday Communique. So many celebrations we are excited to share!
Midland High, Dow High, Northeast Middle, Jefferson Middle, as well as Christa McAuliffe Middle and John Glenn High Schools from Bay City participated in the Midland Public Schools “Celebrate Choirs” event on March 14. Not only did students perform and clinic on their festival pieces but also participated in workshops on vocal technique and improvisation.

Midland High’s Chorus earned a Division II (good) rating and the Meistersingers earned a Division I (excellent) rating.

H. H. Dow High’s Chorus earned a Division II (good) rating. Chamber Singers earned a Division I (Excellent) rating.

Jefferson Middle School’s 6/7/8 grade choirs performed for clinicians. Both choirs earned a Division II (good) rating.

Northeast Middle School’s 7/8 grade choir earned a Division II rating.

All of the choirs did an amazing job and represented Midland Public Schools beautifully!

Jazz & More, a fundraising dinner featuring the Dow High jazz bands and select band, choir, and orchestra solo & ensemble performances, will be held at the Midland Country Club on April 30 from 5:30 to 9:00. Tickets are $35 each and can be reserved online through April 15. Visit www.DowHighMusic.org for info.

Congratulations to the Dow High Auto Tech students who placed at the recent Delta College STS Competition:

- Dale Boursaw and Nathan Hitsman took 3rd place in the Basic Automotive Repair Technician Competition.
- Brett Husted and Steven Drake took 2nd place in the Master Automotive Repair Technician Competition.

Congratulations to Midland High’s Sarah Meath who officially signed with Purdue University at Calumet in Hammond, IN on Tuesday, March 15th. Sarah was a 3-year varsity golf player at Midland High. Her senior year included 2nd team All-Valley honors, Co-Team MVP, Qualifying for the State Finals which included an 81 in difficult conditions. Sarah will join a new Peregrine golf program coached by Randy Wexter.

We hope you have a safe, fun Spring Break March 25-April 1. The next Communique will be published Monday, April 11.