April 18, 2016

Congratulations to Dow High Senior, Ayana Terauchi, for winning the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Concerto Competition on April 8. She played the first movement of the Khachaturian Flute Concerto and will perform it with the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra at Western Michigan University for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Gala Concert in May. This is the second time Ayana has won this prestigious competition. Congratulations Ayana!

H. H. Dow High School wins the A.H. Nickless Innovation Award for the 3rd Year in a Row!

This prestigious award brings $20,000 to Dow High School for STEM and offers $5,000 to each team member. Dow High had two teams represented this year at the competition. There were 18 schools from the Great Lakes Area in the event.

Winning HHD team members:
Varun Shanker, Austen Zhu, Satyajit Sarkar, Andrew Wong and Maddie Kent

MPS is currently enrolling students for our 4-Year-Old Preschool program and our Young 5’s Program for the 2016-17 School Year

Preschool for 4-Year Olds (full day)

- fosters enthusiasm for learning through IB Primary Years Programme units of inquiry in preparation for kindergarten
- low student/staff ratio
- competitive tuition rates
- includes nutritious snacks
- before/after school care available

Young 5’s (full day)

- no fee program that is a perfect bridge between preschool and kindergarten
- uses modified kindergarten curriculum
- child centered and provides additional time for emotional, social, intellectual and physical growth
- child attends kindergarten the next fall

Call 923-5070 is you have questions or go to http://midps.org/kdg.

Congratulations to the MPS Bus Garage Mechanic Staff!

For the second year in a row, all of the 49 buses in the Midland Public Schools’ fleet passed the Michigan State Police (MSP) annual school bus inspection with GREEN flying colors. When the MSP conducts their annual inspection, they use three designations:

- Green for passing inspection which indicates the bus is in satisfactory condition with no repairs needed
- Yellow indicates the bus is in an unsatisfactory condition but is safe for operation
- A Red tag is failing the inspection. A red tag means the bus is unsafe. All of the red tag items must be repaired before the bus can return to service.

A big kudos to John Patten, Head Automotive Mechanic, and his staff, Chris McCaw and Kurtis Lee, for doing such a great job keeping our buses safe and in top working order as they transport our students to and from school each and every day!

2016 MPS Elementary Art Show is currently under way at the Midland Mall and runs through Sunday, April 24.

Stop by the Midland Mall and check out all of the great pieces of art on display created by our fabulous young student artists!
On Friday, April 8, students from Midland High and H. H. Dow High traveled to SVSU for the **Math Olympics** where they competed against teams from all across the Lower Peninsula.

Twenty students in two teams from **Midland High** competed. The Level 1 team earned 2nd place, the Level 2 team earned 2nd place, and Midland High earned 2nd place overall. Earning individual recognitions were:

**Honorable Mention:** Jessica Herron, Preston Millward, Elliot Moore, Gabriel Poprave, Nicholas Scott, Jordan Smith

3rd Place Level 2: Jinyi Lan

1st Place Level 2: Kenny Steinhielber

Great job Chemics!

The **CAD and Welding programs at both Midland High and H. H. Dow High** sent nine students to the SkillsUSA Michigan State Leadership Conference held in early April in Grand Rapids. **Kevin Volesky** of Midland High School took 2nd place in MIG Welding. **Spencer Reay and Richard Wall** of Dow High School took 2nd place in Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing Technology). Other CAD and Welding program students finished strong in all areas of welding, architectural design, 3D animation and rendering, and technical drafting, affirming the hard work and dedication demonstrated by these students this past year.

The **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 p.m.** Tickets are $35 each and can be reserved online through 4/15.

For information go to www.DowHighMusic.org

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Here are the **Dow High** results:

**Level I:**
- **Honorable Mention:** Zachary Fewkes, Naoki Kihata, David Lin, Kaily Metz, Amelia Mylvaganam, Shiva Sreeram, William Wang, Adam Wolok,
- **Level 1 placements:** 3rd—Sasha Konovalenko; 2nd—Anish Middha; 1st—Scott Gilbert

**Level II:**
- **Honorable Mention:** Brandon Fisher, Megan Heydrick, John Hopper, Apoorva Ojha, Emily Wall, Melody Wang, Michael Moore, Daniel Zhang
- **Level II placements:** 3rd—Matthew Rightor; 2nd—Maansi Dasari, Stephen O’Donnell, Steve Xu, Dachaun Yan

**OVERALL:**
- Level I Team: HH Dow; Level II Team: HH Dow; Overall Team: HH Dow

Great job Chargers!

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**MPS High School Spring Musicals**

**Midland High:** The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee April 21 and 22 at 7:00 pm at Bullock Creek HS Auditorium

Tickets are $8 for students/seniors and $12 for adults and may be purchased at Village Green and Journeys or during both lunches in Eyeball Alley.

**H. H. Dow High:** Beauty and the Beast
April 28 & 29 at 7:00 pm; April 30 at 2:00 pm at Bullock Creek HS Auditorium

Tickets are $8 for students/seniors and $12 for adults and may be purchased at Coffee Chaos, Grounds for a Better World and Journeys, or during both lunches at DHS or at the door an hour before the show.

**ENJOY THE SHOWS!**

Congratulations to all of the members of the **H. H. Dow High Symphonic Band**. Their performance at the Western Michigan University Spring Conference on Winds and Percussion last week was truly outstanding. Midway through the concert, **Ayana Terauchi** received a standing ovation for her seemingly effortless flute solo feature with the band. This performance had the most challenging music selections that the band has ever performed. Congratulations to these talented student musicians and their directors!
2016 Young Entrepreneurs Academy

It was an exciting year for the 2015-16 participants in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy.

Congratulations to these very impressive Midland Public Schools’ entrepreneurs who were involved in this year’s YEA! program:

- Jefferson: Halle Reid, Debasmita Kanungo, Debanshu Kanungo, Caleb Qiu
- Northeast: Nathan Witt
- Midland High: Jacob Nelson
- Dow High: Kenady Sasse, Jerry Zhao, Jessica Brooks, Christopher Ludington, Christian Weckesser, Kirk Kramer

Most of these young entrepreneurs pitched their businesses to an Investor Panel on April 13 on Northwood’s Campus. All who presented received funding to launch their venture. Students will now begin marketing and selling their products and services, and preparing for the YEA! Trade Show to showcase their goods to the general public. The Trade Show will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 from 5-7 p.m. at Garber Chevrolet (700 N. Saginaw Road) during the Midland Area Chamber Connection. This event is free and open to the public.

Congratulations to three Jefferson Middle School Students, Debanshu Kanungo, Debasmita Kanungo and Caleb Qiu, owners of Ensure Robo+ (a company that educates students in the learning of robotics), who were chosen to compete in the 2016 YEA! Saunders Scholar Semi-Final Competition in Rochester, New York in May. We send our very best wishes to Debasmita, Debanshu and Caleb on the next leg of their entrepreneurial journey.

Thank you to the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce for organizing this wonderful opportunity for students and to the local businesses and organizations that partner with the Chamber for this impressive program.

If you know of a student who will be in grade 6-12 this fall and is interested in finding out what it takes to be an entrepreneur and possibly taking part in YEA! 2017, please have them contact Tina Lynch at the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce at 839-9901 or visit www.facebook.com/MidlandYEA.

BOND PROJECT UPDATES

If you have been around the Central school/auditorium, you have seen lots of trucks and construction workers working on the grounds. Here is where we stand:

- The former classrooms have been razed
- The auditorium, gym and cafeteria are the structures that remain standing on the property
- Construction is beginning on the new classrooms, maker spaces, gateway/commons areas (and much, much more) for Central Park Elementary School, which is slated to open Fall of 2017

In addition to Central, here are some of the other work underway utilizing Series 1 Bond Funds:

- At tonight’s Board meeting, Board members will take action on a resurfacing project for the Midland Community Stadium track (to extend the track’s life until the new stadium turf is installed in several years)
- Next phase of technology improvements at the high schools for 2016-17
- Determining first purchase of buses needed for bus fleet

April Shining Stars ...

- Jennifer Brenes, Chestnut Hill Spanish Teacher and Elementary Teacher Leader
- Michael Moeggenberg, Director of Facilities and Operations

These dedicated, hard working MPS staff members will be recognized at tonight’s Board of Education meeting. Thank you, Jennifer and Mike, for going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students! Please keep the Shining Star nominations coming in. Here is a link to the nomination form: http://midps.org/shiningstarform

Have questions or comments?
Click on the MPS Connect! icon on our website or call our office at 923-5026.
Let’s Connect!
On Wednesday, April 6 all MPS fourth grade attended a concert at the MCFTA. This is an opportunity for all 4th graders in the district to hear the high school full orchestras and choirs. The high school musicians played solos on each instrument so the fourth graders could learn about what each one sounds like, the choirs performed fun selections, and the fourth graders had the opportunity to sing along. Thank you to the MCFTA, the music teachers, the fourth grade teachers, and everyone who worked to make this great event happen!

Eastlawn Elementary’s March Is Reading Month theme was “Reading is our Superpower!”

Students and parents attended different reading activities including “Create Your Own Superpower” where students wrote about their creative superpowers, designed wrist bands to represent their powers and an obstacle course to show off their super strength. It was a fun evening filled with students, parents and staff coming together to celebrate the power of reading.

Carpenter STEM Parent Night is a HUGE Success!!

The gym, halls and classrooms of Carpenter Street School were crowded with excited students and their families on April 12 for our STEM-themed Title I Parent Night!

Families had dinner together in the gym and then ventured through the school and on the grounds to visit a wide variety of STEM activities.

Whether it was interacting with the Dow High and Midland High School Robotics teams and their robots in the Media Center, visiting with representatives of the Michigan College Savings Program, or participating in hands-on STEM activities in the classrooms, families had fun and learned all at the same time.

We had volunteers from the Dow STEM Ambassadors helping families explore DNA and Energy Generation. Volunteers from Engineering for Kids allowed students to investigate rocketry, force and robotics. We even had a visit from the SVSU STEM Mobile Lab and their volunteers to help families investigate the natural world.

After participating in all of the events, students entered a drawing for prizes and games that related to the STEM theme!

All of this would not have been possible without the hard work of the dedicated staff at Carpenter Street School led by Sarah Cooper, 1st grade teacher. In addition to our many volunteers, we are fortunate to have Federal Title 1 Funding to help with the costs of the event!

“A huge thank you to the Eastman Road McDonald’s for providing over 300 breakfasts on April 12 for Dow High Juniors taking the SAT! Thanks also to Jill English, HHD counselor, for organizing this great event.

“pearls” of wisdom ...

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

— Nelson Mandela

“The most important thing is to try and inspire people so they can be great in whatever they want to do.”

— Kobe Bryant