Central Park Elementary’s STEM Outdoor Learning Areas

The Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF) is granting $50,000 toward a creative playground project for Central Park Elementary that is slated to open for the 2016-17 school year. In addition to the $50,000 grant, MACF has a goal of raising $50,000 via community donations and providing a 2-to-1 match for donations up to $100,000 total. Gifts of $50 or more will allow donors to have their name permanently engraved on one of three large donor walls paying tribute to famous names in STEM. Those interested in giving a gift have a couple of donation options: cash or check to Midland Area Community Foundation, 76 Ashman Circle, Midland, MI 48640 OR online at www.midlandfoundation.org. We have attached a pdf of the brochure to this Communiqué. If you would like a hard copy of the flyer, please e-mail youngcd@midlandps.org with your home address. We would be happy to send a flyer to you!

Saturday, October 22, Kiley Mowry, senior student at H.H. Dow High, attended the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society Fall Meeting at SVSU and presented data from her summer internship at Michigan State University. The project was 3D printing Poly (Lactic Acid) (PLA)-Based Composites. She proudly represented Midland Public Schools and MSU’s Midland Stem Center.

The Fall 2016 Midland Public Schools’ Our Schools Quarterly Newsletter was an insert in the Sunday, October 23 Midland Daily News. If you weren’t able to see it in print form, here is a link to the electronic version. Check it out! https://new.midlandps.org/wp-content/uploads/Our-Schools-2016-Q4.pdf

MPS Today—October 2016 … Please join Scott Cochran, Auxiliary Education Curriculum Specialist and host of MPS Today, as he interviews Principals Bridget Hockemeyer and Shannon Blasy with updates on the Central Park Elementary School construction and STEM learning ideas. Also, meet new Choir teachers Dan and Megan Farison. Here is the link: https://youtu.be/MGpxgs0Mono

Congratulations Dow High Charger Varsity Football Players and Coaches on your impressive victory Friday evening in your Division 2 playoff opener. We wish you all the best Friday night against Fenton for the District Title! Tickets will go on sale later this week.

November 8 Election MPS Board of Education

The seats of incumbent candidates Lynn Baker, Yvonne Gorton, Scott McFarland and Jerry Wasserman will be up for re-election Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

A Candidate Forum, hosted by AAUW Midland Branch and the League of Women Voters of the Midland Area, was held in mid-October.

Here is a link to view the Forum: https://youtu.be/h4pHGSum2Kg

MPS Connect is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day.

Click on the green MPS Connect box on our MPS website (www.midlandps.org) to connect with me!
MPS Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Please take a moment to nominate an MPS team member today. [http://midps.org/shiningstarform]

Anne Frank quotes ...

“The final forming of a person’s character lies in their own hands.”

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

“Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don’t know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!”

MDE Announces Parent Survey for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Recently, the Michigan Department of Education released an ESSA-related survey designed specifically for parents. The parent survey asks questions related to Michigan’s ESSA plan on topics such as student assessment, school accountability, teacher quality and supports for struggling schools. Any Michigan parent or guardian with a child in Pre-K through 12th grade may participate. The survey will remain available through November 18, 2016. Here is the link:

Michigan ESSA Parent Survey

I recently received an e-mail from one of our wonderful STEM volunteers, Mr. Charlie Nielsen, who volunteers in the Dow High Science program. Mr. Nielsen shared this impressive information about an MPS 2016 graduate, “I am a volunteer in the Dow High science department, have worked as an A.P. chemistry lab assistant, advisor to the chemistry club, and mentor to three A.H. Nickless teams. One of the students that I had in A.P. chemistry last year, Sean Pumford, worked with an MSU chemistry professor on a research project this summer. The work was published and Sean was included as a coauthor. … I think that this speaks very strongly about his advisor’s assessment of his skills and contributions. Such an achievement speaks well for STEM acquired skills. Sincerely, Charlie Nielsen”

(If you would like to see the published research project, please e-mail youngcd@midlandps.org.)