Last week schools in our country dealt with incidents of hatred, bullying and racism. There have been some accusations of similar incidents occurring within Midland Public Schools.

MPS teaches our students tolerance, awareness of cultures and respect for all students at all grade levels through a number of programs. One example is the Culture Club at Adams Elementary School. In fact, the Adams program was recognized in Sunday’s edition (11/13) of the Midland Daily News: [link]

The Midland Public Schools’ Board of Education, building principals, teachers and I expect the lessons we have taught will assist our students in making decisions based on respect and tolerance for all cultures and race.

With this expectation, any behaviors that would oppose our policies will be handled with swift and appropriate action. No behaviors of bullying or hatred will be tolerated! We often use the phrase that all students are a member of the MPS family; let’s all treat each other with respect, acceptance, and kindness.

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent

On November 9, Midland High School celebrated with athletes from the class of 2017 who will join other Chemics at the College Level. This recognition coincides with the National Signing Day for NCAA Division I and II bound athletes, however Midland High School recognized all Chemics from the class of 2017 who have thus far been offered and have accepted an opportunity to further their athletic career at all levels of collegiate athletics. (It is noted that other athletes may commit later in the year.)

- Jordan Patty — Central Michigan Univ. — Baseball
- Kirstyn Cotton — Alma College — Golf
- Ellie Jensen — Ashland University — Volleyball
- Skylar Howard — Saginaw Valley State University — Basketball
- Sadie DeWildt — Lake Superior State University — Basketball
- Alex VanSumeren — Aquinas College — Basketball
- Maya Kipfmiller — Boston University — Softball
- Julia Gross — Northwood University — Softball
- Tara Gross — Northwood University — Softball
- Sam Luzar — Alma College — Lacrosse

Congratulations to these Dow High student athletes who signed to play college sports last Wednesday. The students are from left to right:

- David Keptner — Trine University – Lacrosse
- Quinton Bortel — Alma College – Lacrosse
- Kaylee Wasco — Binghamton University – Basketball
- Grace Middleton – Univ. of New Hampshire – Hockey
- Ellie Taylor – Saint Louis University - Basketball

Dow High is presenting “A Christmas Carol” this week at the Bullock Creek Auditorium.

Tickets are on sale at lunch and during seventh hour for $6/student and $8/adult. Performances are November 17, 18, and 19 at 7 pm with a Saturday Matinee on the 19th at 3 pm. Hope to see you there!

Midland’s Santa Parade is this Saturday (Nov. 19) beginning at 10 am from the Midland High parking lot. Watch for the big yellow MPS school bus and all of our students and staff marching and showing their holiday spirit.
Chestnut Hill Elementary—These fifth grade students prepared a week’s work of “empathy” activities for students during the week of Non-Violence. Pictured is the empathy heart with examples of various ways we show empathy or have received empathy.

Plymouth Elementary students celebrated Week of Non-Violence by wearing purple and orange. Wearing these colors reminded students to show empathy for others.

Members of the Jefferson Techno Huskies Robotic team demonstrated how their team works to design and build a robot to a group of Adams’ third grade students.

The 3rd graders loved the presentation and had many questions for the Techno Huskies team. Students especially enjoyed watching the team drive the robot that picked up whiffle balls and tossed them. What a great learning experience for all!

A Meaningful Day-After-The-Election Experience for Siebert Elementary Students

In light of Tuesday’s election, Wednesday morning students came in to Ms. Morden’s 5th Grade Class with a lot on their minds. The class had a thought-provoking discussion about the election. Here are some insights from Ms. Morden, “Students shared their concerns, their fears, and their excitement. We took this as an opportunity to look deeper into our government and how the electoral and popular votes work, as well as review how our government has checks and balances established. Students shared thoughts, feelings, and questions openly and it was really a great learning/teaching experience. In the closing of this discussion, we celebrated the fact that we are able to express our ideas freely and also reflected on the responsibility we have of respecting the fact that others can have different opinions than us. As things move forward, I encourage them to ask questions and find information to support their own opinions. We also reflected on the fact that what we have control over is how we react and our own actions.”

In honor of Veteran’s Day, Sarah Dodick’s Freshman English Class from Midland High hosted two local Veterans to speak about their personal experiences while serving in the military. Both Sgt. Dan Keeler and Officer Josh Thielan are currently serving as Midland law enforcement. Sgt. Keeler served in military intelligence on the North/South Korean border and then as an MP. Officer Thielan served in the Army and had two tours in Iraq in which he served in the bomb squad.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to speak with veterans in person and thanked them for their service.

Plymouth Elementary’s Mock Election!

Voting booths were set up in the hallway for Plymouth Pioneers to participate in a mock election on Monday. Just like real voting, students had a private booth and were able to cast their vote for a president anonymously.
FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Teams Excel

Congratulations to the FIRST Robotics Middle School FTC teams who competed on November 12 at the Great Lakes Bay Region Qualifier Competition. Teams designed, built and programmed their robots to play the 2016 game challenge, Velocity Vortex. Many high school robotics students volunteered and helped at the competition, which was held at Bullock Creek High School. There were three MPS teams among the 35 teams competing:

**Northeast FTC Team ‘Maelstrom’** was selected for the playoffs as part of the 2nd place alliance, where they advanced to the championship round and finished the competition in 2nd place overall. Their team spirit, dedication to the core values of FIRST robotics, and even their dance moves, contributed the team winning the Motivate Award and be the 2nd runner-up for the Inspire Award. The Northeast team earned a spot in the FTC State Championship in Battle Creek, MI in mid-December.

**Jefferson FTC Team ‘TechnoHuskies’** won all of their qualification matches and were the captain of the 3rd place alliance for the playoffs. They were eliminated in the semi-final playoff round in the face of tough competition. Their exceptional robot autonomous programming & control system helped the team win the Control Award. They had fun presenting their engineering notebook & project to the judges. The TechnoHuskies compete again in early December at the Qualifier Competition in Coloma, MI.

**Jefferson FTC Team ‘CyDogs’** was really excited when they were picked by the Jefferson TechnoHuskies to be part of the 3rd place alliance for playoffs. The CyDogs’ team work, team spirit and enthusiasm helped them be the 1st runner up for the Motivate Award - sparking others to embrace the culture of FIRST. This rookie team also demonstrated great independence, professionalism, and composure during the competition. The CyDogs compete again in early December at the Qualifier Competition in Allendale, MI.

**Great job by all the Midland Public Schools’ FTC teams!**

On Saturday, November 12, Midland High School students Matthew Lile, Jonah Dykhuizen, and Preston Millward placed 1st out of over 30 teams at the 8th annual Eastern Michigan University Computer Programming Competition.

Finishing behind Midland High were teams from Detroit Country Day, Detroit Catholic Central, Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, Ann Arbor Huron, and Troy Athens. In addition to first place, the team of Austin Cochran, Hanbyul Johnson, and Jessica Herron placed 10th. The teams had three hours to solve six difficult programming problems. Lile, Dykhuizen, and Millward were the only team to finish all six. The students were coached by Midland High computer science teacher Robert Fox.

About a year ago Grace Gay, a Midland High School CAD 2 student was approached by Jenny Wale of Riverside Place Apartments with the idea of designing an outdoor pergola for the enjoyment of the residents. Grace made sketches, took measurements and developed final working drawings so the design could be built. The process from start to finish went through many revisions until it was approved and sent for bids. The project was funded by area foundations. The pergola was constructed this fall on the northwest end of the building on Main Street. This past week was the ribbon cutting ceremony, and Grace took part in the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony.
Congratulations to Siebert Elementary, Eastlawn Elementary and Carpenter Street Schools, who submitted their IB Primary Years Programme Applications for Authorization in September. We have received word that their Applications have been accepted. They are anticipating their Authorization Visit in early spring. Best wishes! We are excited for you!

Students in Mr. Murphy’s 4th grade classroom at Plymouth Elementary dissected owl pellets. Along with learning about food chains, students are able to explore the form and function of different animal skeletons.

Final Week … Parent Survey for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) … 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

Midland High students in Mrs. McDonald’s GeoScience courses are engaging in Delta College’s Deep Dive program during the month of November. The Earth Science-focused project incorporates all areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students are working to create a 21st century prototype that uses a cell phone to replicate and expand upon the abilities of a Brunton Pocket Transit, a specialty tool used in Geology. Tasks will include designing a device, converting drafts to SolidWorks, and then printing the apparatus on the STEM Explorer’s 3D printer. Students will then use their prototypes to answer questions about slope stability in real-life contexts.

Delta Explorer Update, Week 2: They were very fortunate to welcome a special guest, Dr. Bair, to join in the Deep Dive Projects. Dr. Bair is the head of the Geology department and was instrumental in helping the students gain mastery in the use of the Brunton Pocket Transit. The tool allows students to measure angles, determine heights, and provide directional measurements. With these newly gained skills, students will be moving forward in designing our prototypes.

Theodore Roosevelt quotes …

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.”

“Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.”

“Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

“It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed.”

“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”