As we reflect this week as a District on that for which we are thankful, MPS has a list a mile long! For instance, our amazing community partners who remember MPS in so many varied ways. Here is one great example … Thank you to the Great Lakes Safety Training Center who recently donated power tools and supplies (power saw and table, platform ladders, extension cords, student work gloves and safety glasses) to our Building Trades Program.

Our students, staff and programs truly benefit because of the magnanimous generosity of our many community partners!

Congratulations Lady Chemics on a wonderful Volleyball season!

We are proud of you!

Adams Elementary 3rd Grade students have a very special message to share with you. This was their final song in their Reduce, Reuse, Recycle presentation this past Thursday. We hope you enjoy this 2 minute 5 second smile!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4SCmXSFUvWxQUUsN21MTGowM0k/view?usp=sharing

Congratulations to Nadia Atton, HH Dow High Senior, who recently signed to play volleyball at Northwood University.

All the best Nadia!

Roses to the cast, crew and advisors for their great productions …

- Peter and the Starcatcher performed by Midland High Thespians October 27-29
- A Christmas Carol performed by HH Dow High Thespians this past weekend.

Kudos to all involved in these memorable performances!

Here are just a few ways MPS is giving back and helping others this Thanksgiving Season …

- Eastlawn’s Student Council is spearheading a non-perishable food ingathering for an area food pantry.
- By Wednesday (11/15) Chestnut Hill students had collected 850 non-perishable food items that will be distributed to needy families by Aldersgate Church. By Thursday they had 1,150 items. Wow!
- The Jefferson Husky Pack held a food drive November 7-18. They received over 2500 items which were donated to Midland community families. Great Job Huskies!
- HH Dow High groups are helping the Make a Wish Foundation through a dodgeball tournament and a ping pong tournament. In addition, Key Clubbers hosted a Miracle Minute for Pennies for Polio.
- Midland High is having a coin war with the proceeds being donated to Midland area organizations for Thanksgiving meals.

Mother Teresa once said, “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” Thank you MPS students, staff and families for putting love into the giving and making a difference in the lives of others!
In October, Adams Elementary Culture Club went on a field trip to a Saginaw movie theater to see Disney’s new movie, *Queen of Katwe*. The movie is about a girl from the slums of Kampala, Uganda, who learns to play chess and becomes a world champion, changing the life of her family. Addison Birchmeier, Culture Club member, came with her uncle, Matt Gewirtz. Matt is a professional videographer who works for companies doing promotional videos. His work has taken him to Africa several times (and across the world); he fell in love with Uganda.

Recently, a couple of schools in Uganda were broken into and robbed of supplies. DICE Corporation of Saginaw (a security systems company) decided to give back to the world by donating secure doors and windows for those schools, and they asked Matt to do a video highlighting this global work. As part of this project, Matt asked the Adams’ Culture Club to donate school supplies to restock the schools. On a November Sunday afternoon, Matt came to present the country and culture of Uganda to Culture Club. The students even got to watch a personal message delivered from one of Matt’s friends in Uganda. The students ended the meeting by packing up the supplies for Matt to take to Uganda later this month. Culture Club is honored to be part of DICE Corporation’s promotional video that highlights the importance of giving back and helping the world!

Nice job Carpenter Second Graders!
As we reflect this week on those things in our lives for which we are thankful, I think we can agree that
the health and happiness of our children are at the top of the list! Here is an excerpt of a letter
received by Kim Outinen, HH Dow High Student Leadership Advisor, for one of their group’s
philanthropic projects in which they have participated for the past two years.

Having a child with a rare disease is an interestingly long, twisty, and windy road having both
wonderfully positive and also negative impacts on the journey throughout their childhood. From the
standpoint of a parent of a child with a rare disease it is at times hopeless, helpless, and frustrating. A
rare disease community as a whole struggles with getting early diagnoses, solid care plans,
knowledgeable physicians, and support of any kind. From the standpoint of a board member of a rare
disease organization, there is tireless work and agonizing effort put forth by volunteers to raise funding
for research, resources, and tools for families who are in desperate need. It is because of donors like
you that we are able to put one foot in front of the other and trudge the muddy path to drier
ground. Where families can find more information about their child's' disease, where organizations can
afford to bring families together to meet for the first time, and where parents can share the complexities
of their child's struggles with friends who now have the resources to look deeper for a better
understanding. It is because of donors like you that we are able to put one foot in front of the other and
trudge the muddy path to drier ground. Where families can find more information about their child’s
disease, where organizations can afford to bring families together to meet for the first time, and where
parents can share the complexities of their child’s struggles with friends who now have the resources to
look deeper for a better understanding. It is because of donors like you that allow someone like me to
raise even a little bit of money to make things a little easier on even one child's family somehow. My
name is Roberta Smith, Director of Communications and Outreach for the Alagille Syndrome Alliance
(ALGSA) and mother to Cloe, my little ALGSer. I would like to personally thank you for donating to our
organization during our annual Virtual Walk fundraising campaign 2016.

For the last two years you graciously donated to the ALGSA, prompted by Kim Outinen, a close friend
and personal witness to the stresses of parenting a child with ALGS. Kim has been a great advocate
for Alagille Syndrome with her work in the leadership class at your facility bringing awareness to many
teens and therefore their families. We cannot thank you Kim, and HH Dow High School, enough for
your participation in both 2015 and 2016’s ALGSA Virtual Walk For a Better Life. Bringing
awareness about Alagille Syndrome, or any rare disease for that matter, into a school system is
amazingly impactful on organizations like ours. If even one child remembers our story and decides to
participate in future events then we have achieved what we work so hard to do; provide an outlet for
giving back, helping those in need, and advocating for a cure for Alagille Syndrome. Sharing our story builds
a wonderful foundation for teens to understand that people right in their own community are struggling
and for that, we are grateful. Thank you so much, again, for your participation ...

Kudos to HH Dow High’s Student Leadership
Group and to their Advisor, Kim Outinen, for all
of their hard work throughout the school year and most especially for making a difference for
this special organization!

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

 Thoughts about Gratitude and Thankfulness ...

"Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.”
— Henry Ward Beecher

“When you practice gratefulness, there is a sense of respect toward others.”
— Dalai Lama

“I have a lot to be thankful for. I am healthy, happy and I am loved.”
— Reba McEntire

“I am just very thankful. And I say that a lot because that’s the most
important message.”
— Pharrell Williams