A Cool STEM Thanksgiving Project from Katrina Spry’s Kindergarten Class at Eastlawn

Their charge, “Can you construct a Mayflower ship that will hold the most Pilgrims?”

Students were give materials: foil, foam, tape and scissors. They went through the engineering design process and had a bunch of fun!

Midland Public Schools had a great contingent at the 2016 Santa Parade on a blustery November 19 Saturday. We had students and staff handing out pencils and doing a great job representing our schools in their Santa hats and reindeer ears, the Midland and Dow High marching bands entertained watchers along the parade route wowing everyone with their musical talent and seasonal selections, and, of course, the big yellow school bus did a great job of letting everyone know that MPS was in their midst.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this fun Midland holiday tradition!

On Monday, November 21, our Board of Education members were treated to another great teacher/student presentation. Lance Ransom, Car Care/Auto Tech Teacher at HH Dow High shared lots of great information about this award winning program at DHS. Several Auto Tech students (Gage Rivard, Bayley Chartier, Tristen Harvey, Josh Strike) shared information about why they like the auto tech program and their future plans after graduation.

In last week’s Communique, we highlighted a few ways MPS students, staff and groups are “Giving Back” and making a difference for others this Thanksgiving season. Here are a few more:

- Libby Marsh’s Midland High Sales Class raised $180 for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals at the Open Door.
- Some Adams Atoms took action and hosted a neighborhood cookie and cider sale recently. They went grocery shopping with the money they raised and donated the food they purchased to the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network. Way to take action!
- Adams Elementary donated more than 600 non perishable food items for the Midland County Food Pantry.
- Adams Leadership is sponsoring Toys for Tots from 11/16/16 to 12/14/16.
- A Siebert Girl Scout Troop organized a food ingathering recently for Siebert students. North Midland Family Center was very low on food and was very excited to get the donations!
**Thoughts about Collaboration ...**

"Unity is strength ... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."
— Mattie Stepanek

"Life is not a solo act. It’s a huge collaboration, and we all need to assemble around us the people who care about us and support us in times of strife."
— Tim Gunn

"When you need to innovate, you need collaboration."
— Marissa Mayer

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**Maker Space Opens in the Carpenter Media Center!!**

Carpenter students were introduced to robots this week in the new Maker Space created in the Media Center! In preparation for the transition to the STEM elementary, Central Park Elementary, Carpenter’s Media Center staff has created a Maker Space that will allow students to explore. This parallels the plans for all new media spaces in all of the elementaries!

Students collaborate and problem solve as they build their robots and test their designs. Fun, hands-on/minds-on learning peaks students’ curiosity and interest.

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**What a great day to be a Jefferson Husky!**

Sixth grade students at Jefferson Middle School were learning about decimals in a real world, money!

The students were given a budget of $200 to plan the “Ultimate Tailgate Party.” They were researching for deals, working collaboratively, and working with money to make sure they came in under or at budget.

After presenting their proposals, we put their hard work to use and had the “Ultimate Tailgate Party.”

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**Congratulations to our November Shining Stars:**

- Jen Servoss, IB PYP Coordinator at Eastlawn and Carpenter
- Norm Retzloff, Building Manager at Midland High

These dedicated, hard working members of the MPS team were recognized at the November 21 Board of Education meeting. Thank you Jen and Norm for going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students! Please keep the Shining Star nominations coming in. We hope you will take a moment to let us know why you think an MPS team member is a Shining Star! Here is a link to the nomination form: [http://midps.org/shiningstarform](http://midps.org/shiningstarform)

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**On November 15 all 8th grade Northeast students participated in the Hour of Code**

The Hour of Code is an opportunity for students to learn some basic coding skills for Computer Programming. The students chose from many different tutorials available at [www.code.org](http://www.code.org). They created pictures, animations or music from a wide variety of topics such as Star Wars, Frozen and Minecraft. Students enjoyed the experience and many are now “hooked” and will continue to further their computer science education!

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**Some happy moments from last week’s Thanksgiving Centers at Carpenter Street School**