HH Dow High Hockey Program Celebrates 40th Anniversary

November 30 was a great night for Charger hockey as they celebrated 40 memorable years for this exciting program. Dow High’s first hockey coach, Al Quick, and several members of the first team took part in the evening’s events. Mr. Quick presented the puck from the very first goal scored by DHS in their 1976-77 inaugural season to Coach Dick Blasy. After a very special ceremony, the DHS fans enjoyed the team’s 5-0 win over the Bay Area Thunder that evening!

(Photos courtesy of Midland Daily News)

Midland High Wrestling Program Celebrates 50th Anniversary

December 7 was a memorable night for MHS wrestling as they kicked off their 2016-17 season celebrating the 50th Anniversary of this impressive program.

About 30 MHS wrestling alumni were recognized between the two meets. They helped cheer on this year’s team who went 2-0 in a Saginaw Valley League triangular meet with a team from Bay City and from Saginaw.

(Photos courtesy of Midland Daily News)

On December 2, 100 HH Dow High DECA Members participated in a DECA learning day hosted by Northwood University. Students participated in several learning sessions. Students completed a practice role play and took their test for districts.

It was a great day and the team is ready for their district competition on December 20th at Saginaw Valley State University. Best Wishes DECA Members!

Kudos to everyone who participated in this year’s Midland High Rhapsody Rendezvous on Saturday, December 3 at the Midland Center for the Arts. It was a magical night filled with talented student singers, dancers and musicians.

Here is a photo of the MHS staff who participated in a fun skit for the audience!
The MHS Drama Department participated in one of the largest statewide Theatre Festivals, which was held recently at SVSU. The students attended performances, workshops, and competed in individual events.

Every MHS Drama competitor received a first or second level honors award out of four possible distinctions.

Caroline Jasin received an Excellent in Monologues.

Receiving top level honors with Superior designations were:

Emma Brown in Solo Musical Theatre
Alex McMath in Solo Musical Theatre
Ethan Tuck in Stage Management
Nick Alfano in Monologues
Nick Alfano and Gloria Heye in Duet Scene Acting
Drew Spencer and Rebecca Henning in Duet Scene Acting

Congratulations to these talented students for representing MPS so admirably!

MPS Holiday Break: December 22-January 2 — Classes Resume: Tuesday, January 3

Delta made their last of five visits with the Delta Explorer to MHS and Mrs. McDonald’s GeoScience classes. All 52 students have been busy making final adjustments to the 3-D prototypes they designed and printed using Solid Works. The prototypes replicate and expand upon the functionality of a Brunton Pocket Transit. The students are quickly gaining insight to how revisions are still a necessity even after so many changes have been made along the way. In completion of the unit, the geological tools were “field” tested; the class gave presentations of their creations and the engineering process. Students are now able to utilize their cell phones and prototypes to measure various angles of geologic features.

Congratulations to the DHS Debate team for an outstanding job at the recent MSU tournament. The novice teams of Lily Martinez and Quinn Johnson; Rachel Yum and Tayce Shamamian; David Wang and William Wang all broke to quarterfinals. David and William continued to advance and made it to final elimination where they placed 2nd overall. Earning individual speaker awards at the novice level were: William Wang 7th; Quinn Johnson 4th; David Wang 3rd; Lily Martinez 1st.

At the Varsity level Duncan Donahue and Austin Poon won the overall tournament. Duncan also earned 3rd place speaker.

Congratulations to this entire team for representing MPS so well at this national tournament!

MPS IS GEARING UP FOR KINDERGARTEN!

DO YOU …
Have a child who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2017?
Yes …? Your child is eligible to be part of the 2017 Kindergarten class.

Not sure if your child is ready for Kindergarten? Our highly trained education professionals can answer all your questions. We even have a great Young 5’s Kindergarten option for those young learners who may need a little more time.

Our elementary schools are scheduling their 2017 Kindergarten Orientation meetings in January and February. Call your child’s school for information.

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
FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Teams Compete Again

Congratulations to the FIRST Robotics Middle School FTC teams who competed on December 3:

**Jefferson FTC Team ‘TechnoHuskies’** did well at the Coloma Sunset Coast Splash FTC Qualifier Event. They were excited and honored to be chosen by the first place alliance for the playoffs and they advanced as far as the semifinals. Their Jefferson Husky mascot was loved by all and helped cheer on and encourage all the FTC teams. During the awards ceremony, the TechnoHuskies won the Think Award, which is given to a team with an excellent Engineering Notebook that has a detailed Engineering Section, shows a clear understanding of the engineering design process and recounts the Team's journey and lessons learned throughout the season. The team was also the first runner up for the Motivate award, the second runner up for the Rockwell Collins award, and the second runner up for the prestigious Inspire award. They showed a lot of growth and maturity as a team and had a lot of fun throughout the season. Way to go, Techno Huskies!

**Jefferson FTC Team ‘CyDogs’** rounded out their season with a great day at the Allendale FTC Qualifier Event recently. The team won the Judges’ Award, which is given to a team “whose unique efforts, performance or dynamics merit recognition, yet doesn’t fit into any of the existing award categories”. The CyDogs received the award for their creativity and team spirit. They also were finalists for the Motivate Award and received the Best Table Giveaway award from another participating team. Event attendees voted on a name for the mascot and chose the name “Vortex.” This new team came a long way this fall and ended the season on a high note. Great job CyDogs!

**Northeast FTC Team ‘Maelstrom’** will compete at the FTC State Championship in Battle Creek, MI on December 17.

Congratulations to Kimberli McMahan, Elementary Spanish Teacher at Adams & Siebert Elementary Schools, for being chosen to participate in the prestigious 2017 SVSU Gerstacker Fellowship Program.

Ms. McMahan will join a group of 11 teachers, principals, superintendents and program administrators from across Michigan who will receive concentrated leadership training over a one-year period. The experience concludes with a capstone international trip to Japan in June. The program was established in 2005 with a $1.5 million endowment from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation of Midland. Participants are known as Gerstacker Fellows.

We will get information out about all of the MPS FIRST Lego League Teams that competed recently at the district competition at Freeland High School very soon.

We wanted to give a shout out, though, to the Adams Elementary Red Panda Prodigies team who won the Grand Champion Award in Freeland and qualified to compete in the State competition this past weekend. Stay tuned for all of the great information about our impressive MPS FIRST Lego League Teams!

Click here to check out new construction photos and drone footage of Central Park Elementary: [https://new.midlandps.org/facilities-updates-2/](https://new.midlandps.org/facilities-updates-2/)
Mental Health Resources

Mental health problems are common in youth and adults. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, just over 20 percent (or 1 in 5) children, either currently or at some point in their life, will suffer from a seriously debilitating mental disorder. The good news is that people can recover and lead normal lives.

A major impediment to recovery is silence. Unfortunately there is still stigma about mental illness. To counter this, we recommend that parents learn about mental illness and be open to discussing mental health concerns with their children. A good resource is provided by the National Institute of Mental Health: [https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml)

We have started several initiatives at MPS this year including training some school staff to better assess and address mental health issues in our students. We have also partnered with University of Michigan to offer a website that provides educators with tips for supporting students. The website also includes a list of mental health treatment resources in Midland County. We hope you will visit the website at [https://www.classroommentalhealth.org](https://www.classroommentalhealth.org) and when needed, take advantage of the good resources in our community.

**Tis the Season**

Eastlawn First Graders recently enjoyed a visit with Santa organized by the Midland Kiwanis group!

Thank You Kiwanis and Thank You Santa!

**Leadership Program for High School Freshmen**

Midland County Youth Leadership is a two-day conference for Midland County ninth-graders that provides opportunities to learn about leadership, team building, volunteerism, team decision-making and goal setting through hands-on activities. **Applications are due December 16th, and the program will be held on March 10th and 11th.** Get your applications in today! The application can be found online at [http://forms.northwood.edu/student-life/mcly/](http://forms.northwood.edu/student-life/mcly/)

In **Spanish class at Chestnut Hill Elementary, fourth grade students** are exploring fiestas de luz (Festivals of Light) using an inquiry station. Students are exploring the answers to questions such as ¿Quién? (Who?), ¿Qué? (What?) and ¿Cuándo? (When?) in regards to celebrations from around the world that all connect through the use of light. The inquiry station has both fiction and non-fiction texts, real world examples of the lights, maps and other resources to explore.
Woodcrest Elementary students are “Crazy About Reading” this fall!

As of December 1st, over 7,669 Accelerated Reader quizzes have been taken by Woodcrest students. That’s an incredible amount of reading done by these students! In celebration of their reading efforts, nearly 200 students who earned a minimum of 10 AR points were invited to participate in “Crazy About Reading” Day on November 18. Students were invited to dress in their craziest outfits or come to school dressed as their favorite book character. Students were photographed in their crazy outfits and their photos are displayed in the Media Center for all to enjoy. Three additional Crazy About Reading Days are planned throughout the school year so all students have the opportunity to earn this reward. The Woodcrest community has embraced the Accelerated Reader Program to motivate students to read books as well as work on comprehension skills. Additional AR rewards that students are motivated to earn include popcorn parties, bonus art and physical education time, the use of a yoga ball chair for a day, lunch with the principal, root beer float social, and more.

Great Job Woodcrest Wolverines!

Plymouth Kindergarten classes enjoyed a “plant parts party.” The students spent time learning about all of the parts and then each student signed up to bring a "plant part" for a fun culminating experience!

Thoughts about Friends ... 

"Friends … they cherish one another's hopes. They are kind to one another’s dreams."
— Henry David Thoreau

“The sincere friends of this world are as ship lights in the stormiest of nights.”
— Giotto de Bondone

“The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege.”
— Charles Kuralt

“"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

Some action-packed images from the December 5 Northeast vs. Jefferson basketball game

Jefferson vs. Northeast swim moments
December 7, 2016