On Wednesday, January 25, we had 23 parents attend our January PIC meeting. The agenda topic was Project Lead the Way (PLTW), which is the new STEM science curriculum MPS is implementing District-wide over the next few years.

Ms. Chelsea Sauve, Kindergarten teacher from Carpenter Street School and three of her students—Stella, Jackson and Andrew—demonstrated a lesson on “forces” they had been working on in a PLTW lesson entitled “How Forces Impacts Everyday Life.”

Mr. Mark Naffie, 5th Grade Teacher from Plymouth Elementary and two of his students—Connor and Madison—spoke about the PLTW kits they received and the test beds they created to test the color and motion sensors and bumper switch, which will lead to the exciting culminating activity of building a robot.

As the students work through the PLTW lessons, the presenters spoke about the students viewing themselves as engineers, the problem solving and higher level thinking processes required by students, the reflection and journaling the students do and how PLTW lends itself easily to transdisciplinary integration into all content areas.

Thank you Ms. Sauve, Stella, Jackson, Andrew, Mr. Naffie, Connor and Madison for sharing your knowledge & STEM hands-on experiences with us!

Thank you also to the Michigan State University Midland STEM Center for their vital PLTW partnership with MPS and for allowing us to borrow equipment for this presentation!

All MPS parents are welcome to attend our monthly PIC meetings (4th Wednesday of the month at noon). If interested, contact Cindy Young—923-5026.

If you have (or know of) a child who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2017, it is imperative that parents attend our 2017 Kindergarten Orientation on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7!

5:30 pm: Adams, Carpenter, Chestnut Hill, Eastlawn, Plymouth, Siebert
6:00 pm: Woodcrest

MPS Preschool Orientation: February 6, 2017 @ 5:30 pm at Adams Elementary
January 19-21 six Midland Public School orchestra students traveled to Grand Rapids to participate in the MSBOA All-State Orchestras. These students passed a blind audition and were selected as some of the best young musicians in the state of Michigan. They spent two days rehearsing with Robert Gillespie from Ohio State University and Raphael Jimenez from Oberlin College, and their hard work culminated in a final concert at DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids. The participating students included Tia Li from H.H. Dow High School and Kirsten de Ruiter, Jashvi Desai, Caleb Qiu, Marcella Stones, and Abigail Yoo from Jefferson Middle School.

Midland Public Schools
Fall 2017-18
Schools of Choice Window
for all MPS schools
(including Central Park Elem.)
First Round Schools of Choice applications will be available February 1-28 ONLY
Parents will be notified of their first round application status by March 10, 2017

Mrs. Cheryl Levy, professional storyteller, visited Plymouth Elementary to share her love of story with students, parents and staff on January 23. The theme, Taking Action, was the focus for the day. Her day-long presentation supported the Primary Years Programme (PYP) initiative which expects students to take responsible action as a result of the learning process. Mrs. Levy shared stories about the many ways children can make a positive change in the world. Some of the books she shared included: Emmanuel’s Dream, by Laurie Ann Thompson; Kids Who Are Changing the World, by Anne Jankeliowitch; Olivia’s Birds Saving the Gulf, by Olivia Bouler; The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer; It’s Our World, Tool!, by Phillip Hoose; and One Plastic Bag, by Miranda Paul. Students, parents and teachers were excited to listen, participate and reflect on the many ways they can make a difference in the world.
MPS is very fortunate to be part of a CTE consortium with the other Midland County school districts. What that means is a number of Bullock Creek, Coleman and Meridian students take part in MPS CTE programs and MPS students can participate in CTE programs offered by Bullock Creek, Meridian and Coleman. One such example are several MPS students are currently taking part in Coleman Community School’s Agriscience Program.

Over the course of the past month, students have been preparing for the Michigan FFA Leadership Contests. For these contests students chose to prepare a 6-8 minute speech on an agricultural-related topic, create a resume and cover letter and prepare for a job interview, develop a demonstration/skit on an agricultural issue, or research numerous aspects of the agricultural industry and prepare to write a speech on a prompt given based on an agricultural topic. Students will then be able to compete against other FFA members, with hopes of making it to the State Finals, during the Michigan FFA State Convention in March.

The first round of competition took place during class time on January 24. During this time, all of the Agriscience students competed against each other to determine who will be able to represent our chapter at the District Competition on February 1 at Breckenridge High School. These students earned the chance to go to Districts in these contests:

- Job Interview: Madelyn Badgero from Coleman and Julia Sanderson from HH Dow High.
- Public Speaking: MacKenzie Bloom from Meridian and Annie Kidder from HH Dow High.

Best wishes to these students as they compete at Michigan FFA Districts!

This year’s **Booster Bash** is Friday, March 24, at 6:30 pm at The Great Hall and Convention Center on Bay City Road. For more information and to purchase tickets go to [www.mpssportsboosters.com](http://www.mpssportsboosters.com)

You won’t want to miss this fun night and in so doing, give a helping hand to the MPS high school athletic programs.

thoughts about kindness …

“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”

—Ralph Waldo Emmerson

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

—Mark Twain

“Whenever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness.”

— Lucius Annaeus Seneca