Midland Public Schools’ Superintendent Communiqué

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Congratulations to three MPS students who were among the 15 recipients of MLK Scholarships at the MLK Regional Celebration at SVSU on January 25. This moving celebration honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The scholarship recipients were chosen based on an essay they submitted detailing their efforts to promote Dr. King’s message of peace, unity and equality. Congratulations Ian, Lydia and John! We are proud of you!

Nominate a Midland Public Schools’ Teacher for the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Awards

This year’s Gerstacker Ceremony is Thursday, May 11 at 4:10 pm at Northwood University and will celebrate 62 years of teaching excellence.

Don’t miss your chance. Nominate a great MPS teacher today! The nomination window closes March 10, 2017!

For nomination information go to our website—www.midlandps.org or click on this link:
https://new.midlandps.org/pages/employees/employee-awards/gerstacker-awards/

These awards are made possible through the generous support of the Carl and Esther Gerstacker Donor-Advised Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation.

Midland High School’s One Billion Rising Awareness Week

The Midland High School Student Council held an awareness week for One Billion Rising, a global movement to end violence against women. 1 in 3 women will be the victim of violence over the course of her lifetime. With a world population of 7 billion people, this equates to one billion women and girls that are victims. The students put ribbons on lockers to serve as a reminder about the week, they had informational announcements, and had an ice cream social during lunch to promote caring. The MHS student body also participated in a video created by Fischer Geneau that displayed the reasons why MHS students “RISE” to end violence. The video can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSN52TfLjf0

The week culminated with a one-mile walk to raise community awareness about this global problem and to show solidarity with the victims of violence. The Midland High band provided a musical send-off to the 250 MHS students, staff, and community members that participated in the walk. The Midland High School Varsity Pom-Pon team also participated.

Following the walk, the participants gathered in the cafeteria for soup and hot chocolate and listened to two guest speakers. The student council decorated mugs that could be purchased through donations with the proceeds benefitting the Chazaq Movement. Pam Schmidt, a survivor of domestic violence, shared her story and educated the attendees about the warning signs of domestic violence. Nikki Atkinson, the founder of the Chazaq Movement spoke briefly about the organization, a local, private, not-for-profit organization which provides services to victims or survivors of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. Their goal is to open a home for females ages 12 to 17 that will offer them community, love and care to take them from victims to victors. $700 was donated to their cause in addition to another $500 that was raised through a Valentine’s raffle.

The Midland High School Student Council would like to extend a sincere thank you to all those that supported our efforts in promoting this important cause and those that participated in the walk. It was truly an inspiring event! (Photos on page 4 of this Communique.)
Booster Bash Proceeds Helps to Support All MPS High School Athletic Programs!

Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Booster Bash on March 24, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Great Hall & Convention Center for what is expected to be the bash of the year! Don’t miss the opportunity to have fun and support our students!

Working together to create teamwork and community spirit Dow High School and Midland High School Booster programs will unite for an evening of entertainment by Empty Canvas, Casino fun, dancing, silent auctions, food & spirits to raise funds for our athletic programs.

Please contact either school’s athletic department for more information and to purchase tickets or go to the website at www.mpssportsboosters.com for more information.

A Message From the 2017 Booster Bash President, Lisa Bean:

We are in need of any large item donations such as: airline miles you would be willing to donate to help create a get away package, Condo rental, IPads, Kindles, Laptops, concert tickets, mopeds, bikes, etc.

If you can help, please contact Lisa Bean at (989) 513.0824 asap!!

Thank you in advance!!

16 Midland High School students competed in the Mid-Michigan Brain Bee competition on February 3, 2017, held at the Health Professions Building at Central Michigan University. 125 high school students from eight schools competed in the event that tested knowledge of brain function, location, brain disorders and other brain facts. MHS students, Natalie Halphen, Annaliise Hohner and Ethan Bruce were in the top 15. Ethan Bruce took 3rd place in the competition. Way to go Chemics!!

This year’s MPS Elementary Paddleton Tournament will take place Saturday, February 25, at 9:00 AM

★ 4th grade at MHS
★ 5th grade at DHS

Your child’s elementary PE teacher has the info about this fun event!

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

This year’s Midland Area Community Foundation Scholarship application window closes March 1 at 5:00 p.m. There are over 250 scholarships available for students. Check them out! http://www.midlandfoundation.org/apply-for-a-scholarship
THE ROBOTS ARE COMING, THE ROBOTS ARE COMING!

Mark your calendar NOW for the March 24 and 25 Great Lakes Bay Region FIRST Robotics DISTRICT Competition hosted by HH Dow High School! This is a free event! ALL are welcome!

Last year more than 40 120-pound robots from across the State of Michigan competed in this very exciting event.

The 2017 theme is ...

Our two MPS teams, H.H. Dow High’s ‘The Charge’ (2619) and Midland High’s ‘Like a Boss’ (5509) are working hard and getting ready for the exciting 2017 season.

Want to know more?

Here is a link to the FIRST Robotics Competition Game & Season Information: www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc

Congratulations to the all of the MPS elementary teams who recently participated in the 1st Written Battle in their Battle of the Books Quest! Kudos to the six Siebert teams (pictured here) and all of our other MPS teams who advanced to the 2nd Written Battle. Keep up the great work!

Thoughts about winter…

“In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.”
— Albert Camus

“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”
— Hal Borland

“In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.”
— William Blake

(And, of course, one of my personal favorites)

“There are only two seasons—winter and Baseball.”
— Bill Veeck
Thank you to Fischer Geneau and Monique Albright for these wonderful photos of this inspiring event. The students made over 100 posters for the walkers to carry. The 1 billion mug photo is an example of the mugs that the students made that people could purchase by donation. In the background of that photo is Pam Schmidt, the domestic violence speaker that gave a very powerful speech. Great Job MHS Student Council for organizing this stirring event and helping to bring community awareness of this global problem!