Thirty-nine impressive young women from Michigan were recent recipients of the National Center for Women & Information Technology Aspirations Awards for their aptitude and interest in computing, leadership, good academic history, and plans for post-secondary education. Eight MPS students were among the 39. Congratulations to HH Dow High’s Jillian Lew, Rachel Lazzaro, and Hannah Jacobs and Midland high’s Elizabeth Bott, Megan Greer, Natalie Halphen, Hope Kessler, Marin Tarnowski.

In addition, 14 MPS young women received Honorable Mention awards. They were Dow High’s Amelia Mylvaganam, Sreya Manchiraju, Jessica Kline, and Megan Heydrick; Midland High’s Maddie Allen, Salomé Do, Ashton Doyle, Ellie Jensen, Abby Jozwiak, Courtney Keyser, Riley Legge, Monica Klosin, Jessica Krawczak and Sarah Wing.

The award ceremony will be held April 1 on the campus of Michigan State University. Congratulations to all of these distinguished young women on this impressive recognition. We are proud of you!

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Thank you to the Siebert Bulldog staff and students (Principal Paul Schroll; Teachers Melissa Grunder, Kayla Lamphierd, Katie Morden, Amy Sabourin; and Students Gretchen Shope, Ellie Senkowski, Audra Segura, Davis Veith, Thomas Thaxter) who spoke to the MPS Board of Education on Monday, February 20, about Taking Action. Some of the ways Siebert Bulldogs have taken action is through Nonviolence Week activities, Veteran’s Day letters, Adopt a Family and Jack’s Toy Drive during the holidays, Pennies for Patients, Project Linus and more. Great job Siebert Student Leadership Team. Way to Take Action Bulldogs!
As we continue our Project Lead the Way (PLTW) learning journey, Project 4 was called “mystery beads.” The students in Sarah Cooper’s 1st Grade class at Carpenter each received four mystery beads and had to select different ways to try to get the beads to change. They selected a hair dryer, a lamp, heat from their hands/body, hot water, cold water and flashlights (none of which worked). Then one of them suggest to try the sun which did work (thanks to those UV rays!) They also had to think about how to keep their beads protected from the UV light so they worked on exploring the idea of shade or protection.

Wondering what Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is all about … With STEM careers so prevalent in our society, last year Midland Public Schools launched our STEM Strategic Plan, of which Project Lead the Way is a major component. Project Lead the Way is the STEM curriculum being implemented by MPS using the following timetable: Central Park Elementary—2017-18 school year; remaining five MPS elementary as well as our four secondary schools schools—2018-19 school year. PLTW Launch taps into students’ exploratory nature, engages them in learning that feels like play, and encourages them to keep discovering—now and for years to come. When in the PLTW units, students engage in critical and creative thinking, build teamwork skills, and learn to try and try again when faced with challenges.

Stay tuned … STEM is in the MPS air!

The Midland High 2017 IB group 4 project was a collaborative effort involving Biology and Physics students that focused on human performance. Students were randomly assigned to large, mixed groups and had the school day to complete an extensive and detailed lab. At the conclusion of the day, the groups submitted a lab report that will mirror their Advanced Biology Year 2 Internal Assessment. The skills practiced on this day complemented both the IB and AP curriculums.

In the photo, Gloria Heye, Kaitlyn Hutchinson, Izzy Bott explored the question, What impact does ambient temperature have on heart rate while exercising?

Congratulations to all of the MPS teams who recently competed in the 2nd written battle for this year’s Battle of the Books. Woodcrest has the following four teams who passed the second written battle and competed again this past Saturday at the Grace A. Dow Library in the Oral Battle Round.

Wonderful Readers of Oz I Mustache You to Read Codename Book All Eight Stars

Congratulations to these and all of the teams who competed. Keep up the great work as you continue on this year’s Battle Quest!
Winter Sport District Tournament Information

**Girls’ Basketball at Saginaw Heritage**
February 27 at 6 pm: Midland High v. Bay City Western (BCW)
March 1 at 5:30 pm: Winner of MHS/BCW v. Bay City Central (BCC)
March 1 at 7 pm: Dow High v. winner of Mt. Pleasant/Heritage game

**Boys’ Basketball at Bay City Central**
March 8 at 5:30 pm: Dow High v. winner of BCW/BCC game
March 8 at 7:00 pm: Midland High v. winner of Mt. Pleasant/Heritage game

**Boys’ Hockey at Gladwin Ice Arena**
February 28 at 7:15 pm: Dow High v. Bay City Garber
March 2 at 7:15 pm: Midland High v. winner of DHS/BC Garber

Best wishes to our student athletes and coaches in their post-season!

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The HH Dow High School Choral Program sent 19 events to MSVMA District Solo and Ensemble. One event received a Division II rating and 18 received Division I ratings, qualifying them for State Solo and Ensemble in April. Great Job Chargers! Best wishes at States!

Congratulations to Midland High’s Jacob Miller and Brian Mealey who competed at the Skills USA Technical Drafting Regional competition held at Delta College on February 17. These talented young men earned the chance to compete at States in April.

Best wishes Jacob and Brian!

Kudos to the Eastlawn staff and Dow Ambassadors for organizing an enlightening STEM Inquiry Title One Night!

On February 21 over 100 Eastlawn families (Wow!) were introduced to:
- STEM activities
- engineering design process
- collaboration
- problem solving

STEM is in the MPS air!

Congratulations to HH Dow High’s Varun Shanker and Caroline Szabo chosen by MHSAA for the Farm Bureau Insurance Class A Scholar Athlete Award.

Congratulations to HH Dow High’s Jacob Miller and Brian Mealey who competed at the Skills USA Technical Drafting Regional competition held at Delta College on February 17. These talented young men earned the chance to compete at States in April.

Best wishes Jacob and Brian!

As a part of Libby Marsh’s sales management class at Midland High, students work with area businesses to create a promotional plan for a given business. This year, Jay Aarons, Director of Sales at ESPN Radio, challenged students to do their best by awarding the best promotional plan with the opportunity to produce a radio advertisement.

Students Julia Gross, Mack Smith & Dallas Reim won the challenge and produced an advertisement for Circle Quality Shoes.

Last week MPS elementary schools celebrated the 100th Day of School. Here are some fun photos from Carpenter’s celebrations.
This year’s ‘BASH’ is March 24 at 6:30 at The Great Hall Banquet and Convention Center on Bay City Road. (Please note the change in venue for this year’s Booster Bash.) Go to www.mpssportsboosters.com for tickets and information! Hope to see you there!

A Kindergarten class at Adams Elementary held a fun campout reading celebration last week.

Get Ready … MARCH IS READING MONTH starts this week!

**FIRST Robotics Dean’s List Award Nominees**

Congratulations to these MPS 2017 Dean’s List Award nominees:

- **Nick Collins and Michael Most, Dow High’s The Charge nominees**
- **John Zaremba, Midland High’s Like a Boss nominee**

They will find out during the upcoming competitive season if they advance as semi-finalists for this award. The **FIRST** Dean's List Award celebrates outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining **FIRST** ideals is exemplary.

**MPS FIRST Robotics High School Teams Wrap Up Build Season**

The Dow High **FIRST** Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, and Midland High **FIRST** Robotics Team 5509, Like a Boss, "bagged" their robot on February 21 at the official conclusion of the 2017 robotics build season. More than 55 student team members from 2619 and 30 team members from 5509 designed, built and programmed their brand new robots over the last six weeks in preparation for this year’s "**FIRST STEAMWORKS**" game.

Dow High’s The Charge will compete on March 3 & 4 at Kettering University and on March 24 and 25 at Dow High School.

Midland High’s Like a Boss will compete on March 24 and 25 at Dow High School and on March 31 & April 1 at Lake Superior State University.

Best wishes to both of these impressive teams on a fun, competitive **FIRST STEAMWORKS** Season … We are proud of you!
Bryan Bachman, chief meteorologist at WNEM TV5, visited Woodcrest Elementary on February 16 as part of the 2nd grade Unit of Inquiry, Sharing the Planet. This visit was initiated by a student’s inquiry of weather conditions and how they affect everyday life. Among topics Mr. Bachman covered were the water cycle, different types of precipitation, and causes and consequences of storms. Mr. Bachman also explained to students the technology involved with the television green screen and how green is the only color he cannot wear while presenting the weather. At the conclusion of his visit, Mr. Bachman was presented with a green Woodcrest shirt! Woodcrest students were acknowledged and thanked at the conclusion of Bryan’s forecast that evening on the 6:00 news.

On February 21, members of the Midland High Boys Varsity Basketball Team took advantage of a Tuesday night without a basketball game by volunteering at Midland’s Open Door. Here is the post on Midland Open Door’s Facebook page: “Nice night for a cook out! The Midland High School varsity basketball team provided dinner at our Men’s Crisis Shelter tonight. Under the direction of Coach Eric Krause and his wife Kelly, dinner was a SLAM DUNK! Thank you players and parents for a wonderful evening. GO CHEMICS!”

Way to go Coach Krause & Team!

Nominate a Great 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 an 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.

On February 17, the Adams Elementary Atoms had a fun Ski Day at Caberfae.