Did you know that last Wednesday — April 5, 2017— was Paraprofessional Appreciation Day!

Even though we were on Spring Break last week, we wanted to take a moment to say **Thank You** to these dedicated MPS team members who make a difference every single day for MPS students and staff. The next time you are in one of our buildings, please join us in thanking our dedicated MPS paraprofessionals!

**Spring 2017 M-STEP Assessments are Underway!**

Grades 5, 8, 11: 4-week window begins today (4/10)  
Grades 3, 4, 6, 7: 4-week window begins May 1

The State requires us to test every student. Please make every effort to have your child(ren) at school on time on test days. Help your child be successful! Send him/her to school with lots of rest and a good breakfast. This will help them concentrate and do their best!

Thank you to Adams Principal **Linda Lipsitt**; Woodcrest Principal **Jeff Pennex**; IB PYP Coordinator **Robin Harshman-Rogers**; Adams auxiliary teachers **Senora McMahan**, **Ms. Haskett** and **Ms. DuLude**; and Woodcrest physical education teacher **Ms. LaCourt**, who spoke at the March 20 MPS Board of Education Meeting about the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. It was exciting to hear this group of dedicated educators share their passion for education and their work with IB PYP in their art, music, Spanish and PE classrooms.

The Midland High Robotics Team 5509 **Like a BOSS** did really well at the Lake Superior State University District Event March 30-April 1. The team ended qualifications as the #1 overall robot out of the 40 competing teams. As the number one robot, **Like a BOSS** had the top pick and the last pick for their alliance partners. Based on all of their scouting data, the team picked team 862 out of Canton and team 3617 out of Marquette. As an alliance, they ended up breezing through quarter-finals but came up short in the semi-finals after one of the teams had mechanical issues. Overall this was a great event for this Chemic Team.

Best wishes to both Midland High’s Team 5509, **Like a BOSS**, and HH Dow High’s Team 2619, **The Charge**, qualifiers to compete at the Michigan State Championship at SVSU later this week.

We are proud of you!

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**MPS Connect** is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day. Click on the green MPS Connect box on our MPS website (www.midlandps.org) to connect with me!
YOU MAY KNOW THAT APRIL IS
NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
HERE IS AUTISM AWARENESS ... JEFFERSON STYLE!

At Jefferson Middle School, we have many talented artists … one we would like to highlight in this Communique is Ben Stebleton. Ben is a 6th Grade student at Jefferson with Autism. Among Ben’s many talents are his artistic talents … most specifically his ability to draw SpongeBob Square Pants characters. Knowing Ben’s passion for drawing and his excitement when drawing the SpongeBob characters, his art teacher, Allison Brady, contacted the Nickelodeon Animation office via e-mail. She sent them pictures of Ben’s SpongeBob artwork. Ms. Brady received an envelope from Nickelodeon with Ben’s name on it. Ben received a picture of SpongeBob characters signed by the voice of each character! Here are a couple of photos of Ben receiving his very special photo. Ms. Brady shared the following, “I am already seeing a big change in my classroom with how my students interact with Ben. They start conversations with him and ask him questions about his artwork. It has been really amazing.”

Autism Awareness Day is typically celebrated on April 2, but because our students were on Spring Break, Liz Shuster’s students at Jefferson commemorated “Light it Up Blue” to bring awareness to the individuals and their families who are impacted by Autism on March 31. Ms. Shuster and her students handed out blue candy and stickers during each lunch hour to the Huskie student body. Huskies were asked to show their awareness and acceptance of classmates with unique learning needs by wearing blue on March 31. Way to go Huskies!

Saturday, April 29
5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Midland Country Club
Dinner Buffet @ 6:00
Silent Auction

Guest Appearances by Choir and Orchestra
Featuring H.H. Dow High Jazz Bands
under the direction of Mr. Steve DeRees
Ms. Shelby Shawl, Emcee
For more info: www.dowhighmusic.org

On March 25, 12 Midland High School students travelled to the University of Michigan-Dearborn to compete at the annual Engineering and Computer Science Experience. Competing in the advanced programming division, the team of Nicky Billovits and Jonah Dykhuizen won third place and $200 in prize money. The team of Matthew Lile and Preston Millward finished in 4th place. Way To go Chemics!
Fifth graders in Senora Villarreal's Spanish classes at Plymouth, created board games to practice conversational questions, which students need to be able to ask and answer by the end of the year. Some of these questions included: ¿Cómo estás?, ¿Cuántos años tienes? and ¿Cuál es tu color favorito. Working in small groups of three or four, each group was responsible for designing and constructing their games. Students created or acquired any materials that were needed to play the game (cards, dice, spinners, pawns, etc.). Students created rules and a set of directions for each game along with a name for their game. When students finished making and playing their own games, the fifth graders switched games with another group and played a different game. At the end of the project, students reflected on the entire process from start to finish by completing a rubric, rating themselves and their group members. The experience allowed students multiple opportunities to practice not only their conversational Spanish but many of the PYP Transdisciplinary Skills as well, such as social, communication, and self-management skills.

Congratulations to the Midland High Symphony Orchestra student musicians who participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Festival on March 3 and received a First Division rating.

Congratulations also to Rachel Crowley, Midland High Junior who participated in the State Solo and Ensemble Competition in Lapeer. Rachel performed a proficiency solo and did an outstanding job!

Congratulations to these very talented student musicians!

The Northeast 6th grade Spanish class has been working on Spanish alphabet books during the month of March, finding words to represent every letter in the Spanish alphabet, picking a theme, and learning to write basic sentences. The third graders from Plymouth have been working on writing sentences about what they do at school. They wrote a book about having a crazy day at school where they do things like play golf in music class and sleep during Spanish. The last week of March the 6th graders joined with the 3rd graders to share their books with each other. Fun was had by all!

Wise words to ponder:

“Nature always wears the colors of the spirit.”
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

“In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.”
—Mark Twain

“The beautiful spring came; and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.”
—Harriet Ann Jacobs

“Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet.”
—Roger Miller