The Midland Public Schools’ 2017 Elementary Art Show at the Midland Mall begins TODAY (4/17) and runs through Tuesday, April 25.

You are invited to an Opening Reception this afternoon (4/17) from 4-5:30 at the Mall. We hope you can stop by to see the students’ fun artwork on display during this year’s show!

The MPS Middle School Art Show at the Midland Mall runs from April 27 through May 6 with a reception on April 27 from 4:30-6:30. We hope you can check it out!

Phew … Week One of Testing is done

Kudos students! Keep up the great work!

Thank you parents for encouraging your child to eat a good breakfast and get a good night sleep. Thank you also for not scheduling doctor and other appointments during testing times. We truly appreciate your support!

Click on the green MPS Connect box on our MPS website (www.midlandps.org) to connect with me!
Midland Center for the Arts hosted a Junior FIRST Lego League Expo on April 8. Early elementary age robotics students presented their posters and Lego models and participated in demonstrations by other FIRST Robotics teams from upper elementary through high school level. MPS was represented by two FLL Jr teams from Adams Elementary! The Awesome Atoms (K-1st grades) won the Most Team Spirit Award and the Ultimate Adams Builders (2nd-3rd grades) won the Most Imaginative Award! Dow High’s Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, was one of the participating teams giving robot demonstrations at the Expo. Way to go!

Midland High Thespians will perform this fun musical April 20, 21 and 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Bullock Creek High School. Tickets are now on sale during the lunch hours in Eyeball Alley—$8 for students and $12 for adults.

Siebert Elementary would like to thank the following Dow High School students for their help and hard work in creating our school’s PYP Programme of Inquiry display: Jessi Brooks, Jocelyn Cha, Loree Chung, Melody Drossner, Iris Funioli, Kirsten Butcher, and Abbey Huffman. A very special thank you to Brianna Tegan for heading up the project and designing the display with the support of DHS teacher Curt Gledhill. These students volunteered many hours to create this amazing masterpiece and their community service is appreciated!

Delta College Math Competition: Math is a competitive sport! That’s why the Delta College Mathematics Division has been hosting the Middle School Mathematics Competition each spring since 1997. On March 18, Delta College hosted their annual competition.

6th Grade
1st – Shubhan Nagarkas
2nd – Amy Lee
3rd - Amelia Frickey
4th – Danny Safadi
Tied for 5th – Alana Schroden
15th – Sydney Thompson
Tied for 16th – Elleanna Bucknell
Tied for 18th – Ben Root

7th Grade
1st – Andrew Gilbert
2nd – Omer Khan
5th – Kenneth Gu
Tied for 6th – William Gaal
Tied for 11th – Michelle Li
20th – Sebastian Park

8th Grade
Tied for 10th – Pranjal
Tied for 16th – Odin Drake & Marshall McGaugh

Congratulations to our Jefferson Husky 2017 participants and those who placed in the Top 25!

I know this doesn’t feel like a normal Communique item, but something very special came into my office last week, and I wanted to share it with you.

In tonight’s Board meeting, one of the gifts we will recognize is a check from an individual that said “…to be used for science education supplies or resources for the 5th Grade, in memory of Mr. James Nelson, my teacher at Plymouth in 5th and 6th grades in 1970-71 and 71-72.” Her letter went on to say “Mr. Nelson was my science teacher in 5th grade and my home-room/science teacher in 6th grade. He was funny, smart and kind, everything you would want in a teacher. I think back fondly of those days, when he made learning fun and interesting. Whatever he was teaching, he was enthusiastic.”

Mr. Nelson passed away in February. He taught at MPS for 28 years retiring in 1989.

Mr. Nelson like so many of our dedicated MPS teachers, administrators, and support staff make a profound difference that students remember even 50 years later.

Truly an amazing journey!
Congratulations to our April Shining Stars

Sandy Justus
Northeast Life Management
Teacher

and

Nicole Lloyd
Plymouth
Title 1
Paraprofessional

These dedicated, hard working members of the MPS team are being recognized at tonight’s Board of Education meeting. Thank you Sandy and Nicole for going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students!

Please keep the Shining Star nominations coming in. We hope you will take a moment to let us know why you think an MPS team member is a Shining Star!

Here is a link to the nomination form: http://midps.org/shiningstarform

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MPS High School Bands Shine at Disney World!

During Spring Break, the Midland High School and H. H. Dow High School Band Programs travelled to Disney World to perform in concerts and participate in musical clinics. Two hundred and thirty musicians from both high schools merged into two concert bands and performed on stage at Disney Springs in Orlando, Florida. They also participated in "You're Instrumental," a clinic put on by Disney World with Disney professional recording artists. In the clinic, the students learned what it was like to be a professional musician. They performed background music to Disney movies such as Tarzan, Frozen, and Star Wars. Bill Monroe, Director of the Midland High School Band said, "One of the best parts of the trip was seeing the Midland and Dow students doing something together, with a common goal. This is one of the few times when the students at both high schools are on the same team." The clinicians were very impressed with the bands, saying that the Midland and Dow Bands were some of the best bands that have attend these clinics in Disney World over the last ten years. In addition, students were able to enjoy all of the wonderful experiences at the Disney parks, as well as attending a performance by the "Blue Man Group."

All MHS and DHS students were outstanding ambassadors for the Midland Community and this wonderful experience will be long remembered by everyone involved.

You may remember that this past winter, our very own Larry Jacobs, Jefferson Middle School Social Studies Teacher, received the Game Changer Award from the Detroit Pistons for February. Game Changers are the everyday people making a difference within their communities through service, leadership and volunteerism. Through the Come Together Game Changers program, the Detroit Pistons recognize and reward teachers that are making a positive impact in their classroom and in the lives of their students. We were so excited when Larry won the February Game Changer Award. Well … we are thrilled to share with you that over spring break Larry Jacobs received the Detroit Pistons GAME CHANGER OF THE YEAR Award. Larry received a $10,000 prize he can donate to the school or organization of his choice. Congratulations Mr. Larry Jacobs. We are proud of you!
The Midland High Robotics Team, 5509 Like a Boss, and the HH Dow High Robotics Team, 2619 The Charge, recently competed in the Michigan State Championship FIRST Robotics Competition at Saginaw Valley State University. The competition took place over a course of three days where 160 teams competed to be best in the State. Teams were divided into four divisions, competing on separate fields, for the initial part of the competition.

The first two days consisted of 80 qualifications matches per field where Team 5509 Like a Boss finished 9-3, earning them a #3 rank in the DTE Energy division. With this #3 rank they became 3rd place Alliance captains in their division where they chose teams 4405, The Atoms Family, and 201, The FEDS, to join their alliance for the playoffs. Team 5509’s alliance worked their way through the division playoffs becoming DTE Energy Foundation Field Finalists. Their playoffs came to disappointing end with a loss in the finals, losing in the tiebreaker match 255-278. Midland High’s Team, 5509 Like a Boss, is now ranked 17th out of 451 teams in the state.

At the conclusion of the qualification matches on the Consumers Energy Division, Dow’s Team 2619 The Charge, was selected to be part of the 6th place Alliance by teams 4391, BraveBots from Gladstone and 85 B.O.B. from Zeeland. Their Alliance upset the 3rd, 2nd and 1st ranked Alliances in playoffs to become the Consumers Energy Division Champions and earn a spot on the overall Michigan State Championship field on Saturday afternoon! The Charge’s run at the State Championship ended in the overall State semi-finals with a close 465-448 loss. Dow High’s Team 2619, The Charge, is now ranked 6th out of 451 teams in the state.

These rankings have qualified both Midland’s Team 5509 and Dow’s Team 2619 for the FIRST Robotics World Championship in St Louis, MO which they will attend at the end of April! Congrats!!

In addition, Dow High student, Michael Most, was selected as one of Michigan’s 14 Dean’s List Award Finalists! He will go on to compete for the Dean’s List Award at the World Championship. The Dean’s list award recognizes FIRST Robotics students for their direct contributions and impact on others – exemplifying leadership and commitment on the team and in their community.
KUDOS FEBRUARY PROJECT 111 WINNERS

Congratulations to our February winners, Midland High’s Hope Kessler and HH Dow High’s Victoria Anaele! A great big THANK YOU to Davis and Davis Orthodontics for providing all the incentives for the month of February! We are working to constantly remind the teens of Midland County to drive well! The incentives, like the iPads in the photos, open the door for our voice to be heard by the teens! Thank you Dr. Dale Davis for your generosity and great job Hope & Victoria!

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. PLEASE put your phones down and drive with intention!

As you know, testing season is upon us. Here are some wise words written by Rachel Wade of Family & Children Services for us all to keep in mind.

Test time: The perfect storm for anxiety and stress to bloom

For many parents, test time at school can ignite anxiety and increased stress in their children. Anxiety is a normal reaction to stress, however children’s excessive worries about performance, friendships, attendance and even family concerns can present a challenge for parents. With the school year wrapping up and year-end stress increasing for some, here are some tips adapted from the Child Mind Institute to help your child manage their anxiety:

1. **Express positive and realistic expectations:** If your child is worried about failing a test, giving positive feedback such as, “Don’t worry, you can do it!” will frequently backfire, because your child is likely to argue with you. Instead, consider saying something like “This time of the school year is hard and stressful. If I can help you in any way, let me know.” This helps instill confidence in your child, so they feel empowered to manage their worries and can ask for help if needed.

2. **Validate their feelings:** If your child is worried about an upcoming presentation, avoid belittling or amplifying their feelings. Instead, consider validation “I see you are worried about not doing well on your exams, tell me more about that.” Allow your child to talk about his or her fears while remaining non-judgmental and interested in what he or she is saying will go a long way towards your child learning how to manage his or her own anxiety.

3. **Manage your own anxiety:** Children are perceptive; they will see when you experience stress or worry. Stress and anxiety effect whole families, so by doing your best to model and teach healthy behaviors, your entire family will benefit.

4. **Seek professional support:** If the stress and/or anxiety that your child is feeling does not improve when events like exams end, consider seeking professional supports. A professional will be able to help your family and child learn new life long skills that will help them manage excessive stress and/or anxiety in a healthy way.

For more information, please go to [https://www.classroommentalhealth.org/resources/community-resources/](https://www.classroommentalhealth.org/resources/community-resources/).

Wise words from one so young ... Malala Yousafzai:

“Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow’s reality.”

“We should all consider each other as human beings, and we should respect each other.”

“I need to complete my homework on time.”

“I say I am stronger than fear.”

“Dear sisters and brothers, we realize the importance of light when we see darkness.”