As we celebrate National Volunteer Week—April 24-28, please allow us to say …

Volunteers like YOU make OUR MPS-world a better place!

From a suggestion by an MPS staff member who greatly appreciated all of her building’s volunteers but had one she felt truly exemplified the volunteer spirit, we instituted an MPS “STAR VOLUNTEER” program in 2015. Again this year, we asked each building principal to nominate a person in their building as their Star Volunteer.

Here are our 2017 Star Volunteers:

**Elementary Buildings:**  
Adams: Kim Zimmer-Janeczko  
Carpenter: Abby Shephard  
Chestnut Hill: Sara Philo  
Eastlawn: Cal Goeders  
Plymouth: James Young  
Siebert: Cheryl Purtell  
Woodcrest: Keyona Bradford

**Middle Schools:**  
Jefferson: Lisa Rich  
Northeast: Greg Janoch

**High Schools:**  
H. H. Dow: Doreen Keptner  
Midland: Anne Beery

Thank you 2017 Star Volunteers for your dedication. Words cannot convey our gratitude for your tremendous contribution.

Thank you MPS Volunteers. We appreciate all you do!

It is with deep sadness that we must wish a final goodbye to a dear MPS colleague, Mrs. Rita Hopfensperger. Early Friday morning Mrs. Hopfensperger lost her hard fought health battle. “Mrs. Hop” joined the MPS teaching staff in 1996 with the vast majority of her time with us providing a learning, caring, nurturing and smile-filled environment for 1st and 2nd grade students at Plymouth Elementary School. Our heartfelt thoughts are with Rita’s family during this very, very sad time!

Speaking of MPS volunteers … MPS is now partnering with the United Way of Midland County in a new & improved volunteer system. What was BRAVO will now be United for Success. Watch for more info soon!

Roses to the cast, crew and directors of Midland High’s SHREK The Musical for their thoroughly enjoyable performances this past weekend!

Dow High’s spring musical is Annie. Mark your calendars for May 4, 5, 6. Performances are at the Bullock Creek High School Auditorium at 7:00 pm all three days with an additional 2:00 matinee on May 6. Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for students and seniors and will be available for purchase during the lunch hours a week or so before the performances or at the Auditorium box office an hour before show time.

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!
Thank you JCC

On Monday, April 17, Lori Pritchard, Juvenile Care Center Supervisor of Educational Programs, shared information about the JCC day treatment and detention programs with Board of Education and audience members. In addition, four former JCC program participants—Joleen, Charlie, Kayla and Ava—shared information about the support and tools their time at JCC provided. These articulate, impressive presenters also shared information about their personal journey and the successes they have experienced.

MSBOA District 5 All-Star Weekend just wrapped up. Jefferson Middle School had a great showing. In addition to being the largest group of orchestra students from a single school, they won their auditions to be first chair in 4 out of 5 sections of the ensemble. They rehearsed from 8:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and had a concert on Sunday afternoon. The students in the picture from left to right … Lunden Dingman, Hannah Loiselle, Abigail Ahn, Emily Telgenhoff, Sophie Reed, Andrea Vargas, Abigail Yoo, Andrew Zhou, Jashvi Desai, Mark VanHeel, Marcella Stones, Alex Kuo, Kirsten de Ruiter, Brendan Ladwein, Caleb Qiu, Adam Gardner. Way to go Huskies!

Congratulations to the HH Dow High Choral Program who participated in nine vocal events at MSVMA State Solo and Ensemble on Friday, April 21. All events earned Division I ratings and the students gained valuable knowledge from their adjudicators.

Thank you MPS Office Professionals and Administrative Assistants

National Administrative Professionals’ Day is Wednesday, April 26.

The next time you visit any of our buildings, please take a moment to say THANK YOU to these dedicated staff members who work hard every single day for Midland Public Schools’ students, staff, families and community!

As we look ahead to the end of the 2016-17 school year … please mark your calendar for some momentous occasions for our Carpenter Crusaders and our Eastlawn Eagles.

Celebration events for these historic/exemplary elementary schools whose students will attend Central Park Elementary beginning in the fall are as follows:

- Carpenter Street School
  Friday, June 9
  5:00-7:00 pm

- Eastlawn Elementary
  Friday, June 9
  2:30-5:00 pm

Please mark your calendar now so you can make plans to join us!

MPS has such great neighbors

These little darlings from Ms. Trudy Furnette’s Day Care, which has been a wonderful Midland High neighbor for many years, were busy last Friday picking up trash at MHS in honor of Earth Day. Thank you Ms. Furnett and thank you little ones!

Astronomy and Telescope Night at MSU Midland STEM Center (1910 W. St. Andrews Road)

Fri., April 28, 2017 9:00 to 10:30 p.m.
Cost: Free!
Instructor: Edmund Stark, PhD

Did you know that late April offers the best opportunity to view the planet of Jupiter for all of 2017? Jupiter and Mars will be in the sky, and a variety of telescopes will be available for viewing during the event. Participants are encouraged to bring their own binoculars as well. Instructors will help attendees find and identify a number of brighter stars and constellations. Families attending should dress for the weather as viewing will be conducted outside. Everyone is welcome inside for refreshments and restroom access. Photographers will be present—you may be asked for photo release permission.
While studying how humans have the ability to care for the world around them through our PYP unit, Sharing the Planet, Mrs. Lanphierd's first grade class at Siebert Elementary began brainstorming ways in which they could bring awareness to Earth Day and encourage others around them to keep Earth clean and healthy. While brainstorming, they came up with the idea of creating and hanging posters to encourage picking up after themselves and others by throwing away litter and recycling paper and aluminum cans. The students got right to work in writing down their messages and then went around the school hanging them near trash cans and recycling bins to bring awareness to keeping the school clean. They continue to look for opportunities to conserve water and electricity, as well as clean up on the playground and around the school. Great Job Bulldogs!

Looking for camps and other fun things for your child to do this summer? Check out the MPS Flyer Board! Now that spring break is behind us, we have flyers coming in every single day. Check it out! https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-flyers-2/.

The annual MPS 4th Grade Music Appreciation Concert took place on Thursday, April 13 at the Midland Center For The Arts. The concert featured the advanced orchestras and choirs from Dow High and Midland High. It concluded with a beautiful performance of Dry Your Tears, Afrika with all of the 4th Graders singing along. Congratulations to the high school students, directors, 4th grade music teachers and the 4th graders on their excellent behavior and participation!

The FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Team number 10615, the Jefferson CyDogs, of Jefferson Middle School, had the opportunity to demonstrate their robot at the XALT Energy, LLC Midland Battery Plant. The team also toured the facility, which included going into the class 1,000 clean rooms where the battery cells are produced. They were the youngest group to ever tour the plant!

Congratulations to HH Dow High’s Update and Charger Yearbook staff on their 84 individual wins for outstanding work in journalism at the MIPA spring awards. The Update’s print edition was recognized with the highest honor of a Spartan Award, the 2016 Yearbook earned a Gold medal, and the Update Online earned a Bronze. Senior Maggie Schaller was selected for the MIPA Student Journalist Staff and further was recognized as ALL-MIPA in News Reporting and Writing.

Congratulations to Midland High’s Focus Newspaper staff on their 35 individual wins for outstanding work in journalism at the MIPA spring awards. The Focus’ print edition was recognized with a Gold Medal for journalistic excellence by the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association. Focus editors Ella Colbert and Maddy O’Callaghan, both seniors, were named to the MIPA All-State Student-Journalist staff. Ella was honored for writing and reporting, and Maddy was honored for photojournalism.
MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS’ BUILDING TRADES HOUSE IS IN PARADE OF HOMES

The house being built by Midland Public Schools’ building trades class this year will be one of the homes featured in the Spring 2017 Midland Parade of Homes May 13-14 and May 20-21. The House will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 on the Parade of Home days. The address is 406-408 Eastlawn (across from the Little League Baseball Field). We hope you have a chance to stop by during the Parade and see the beautiful home being constructed by our talented, hard-working building trades students.

MIDLAND COMMUNITY AVIATION DISCOVERY AREA

Now that the weather is getting nice and STEM is in the MPS air, we hope you will have a chance to check out the wonderful Midland Community Aviation Discovery Area at the Jack Barstow Airport.

Both Midland High School and Dow High School will offer six weeks of Summer School via online courses June 20-July 27, 2017. The cost is $150 per course ($175 for out-of-district students). Summer school can be a timely, effective and persuasive motivator for students who need to earn credits. To register online, go to www.midps.org/elearning. For more information, please contact Academic Counselors Chris Sabourin (923-5120), Christa Felker at DHS (923-5462), or Lee Leffingwell at MHS (923-5267).

This past weekend, three Midland High seniors, Hannah Striebel, Ashton Doyle and Matthew Lile, presented an app for a smart phone they’ve developed that they believe will prevent texting while driving thus saving lives. They presented their impressive project at the 4th Annual A. H. Nickless Innovation Award at Saginaw Valley State University. Here is a link to a news report WNEM did last week. http://www.wnem.com/clip/13260422/local-students-develop-app-they-hope-can-save-lives

Wise words to ponder:

“He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything.” — Thomas Carlyle

“Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me.” — Carol Burnett

“Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit.” — e. e. cummings

“You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind.” — Joyce Meyer