Congratulations to Dow High Seniors, Daniel Zhang and Brandon Zhu for finishing third in the nation’s most prestigious science competition for high school students—the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology at George Washington University in Washington DC last week. They were among four teams who earned the $25,000 scholarship.

Congratulations Daniel and Brandon! We are proud of you.

(Midland Daily News)

Middle School Robotics Teams Compete in 2nd Qualifier

Three of our middle school FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics teams recently participated in their second qualifier of the season.

In mid-November, the Northeast Savage Vikings competed in the Marysville qualifier where the team finished in 11th place and was picked to compete in the playoffs where the team was eliminated in the semi-final round. They were awarded the PTC Design Award for design excellence and team professionalism. Congratulations to the Savage Vikings on an excellent rookie season!

This past weekend, the Jefferson CyDogs and Wired Wolves participated in the Big Rapids qualifier. One of the many highlights of this event was when both teams played together on the same alliance. Both teams had robots that performed very well. The Wired Wolves were 1st runner up for the Motivate Award and the CyDogs were 2nd runner up for the Design Award. Congratulations to the Wired Wolves on a fantastic rookie season!

We send our very best wishes with the CyDogs, TechnoHuskies and Viking Vigilantes as they compete at the FIRST in Michigan State Tournament this coming weekend.

Siebert Elementary students were excited to find a big surprise when they entered their classroom the morning of December 6. Sinterklaas made a visit from the Netherlands in the wee hours of the morning and placed scrumptious Dutch treats in the fourth graders’ gym shoes! A few weeks ago they had learned about Sinterklaas visiting children in the Netherlands the night of December 5th each year. Little did they know that Sinterklaas would make a stop at Siebert!

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(Midland Daily News)

Congratulations to MHS Seniors: Jerry Bringard, Emma Jamrog, Preston Millward and Gwynne Ozkan, winners of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge for the 4th Congressional District. These Chemics designed Campus Pass, a real time app, which protects students while on college campuses. These MHS students will have their app displayed in the U.S. Capitol and will have the option to attend an event in Washington DC to showcase their app alongside other winning students from across the U.S.

Congrats Jerry, Emma, Preston and Gwynne! We are proud of you.

(Midland Daily News)
Elementary FIRST Lego League Teams Compete at Ready, Set, LEGO! Competition

On December 2nd, area FIRST Lego League teams participated in the Ready, Set, LEGO! qualifying tournament, which was sponsored and hosted by Nexteer Automotive. FIRST Lego League is a program that makes learning STEM concepts fun as teams build robots to solve missions and, in the project portion of the program, solve a real-world problem. The 2017 Challenge was called Hydro Dynamics. Students learned about and solved real-world problems related to the way people find, transport, use or dispose of water.

Congratulations to all these MPS teams that participated this season:

- **Team 12546, The Bulldog Builders** from **Siebert Elementary**, had lots of fun at the event and enjoyed seeing the hard work from the other teams. They finished 6th place in the Robot Competition and won the Innovation and Strategy Award. Their favorite core value was “We have fun!” and Vicktor Pangburn stated, “I love programming!”

- **Team 30619, H2WOAH** from **Siebert Elementary**, attended as a qualifier for the first time and had a great time. Everyone exhibited Gracious Professionalism, the core value of FIRST, throughout the season and during the event. “The robot competition in the gym was exciting, we were worried our robot would not complete a challenge and when it did everyone cheered!” said Andy Hudack. The team finished 8th in the Robot Competition.

- **Team 24586, The Water Warriors** from **Adams Elementary**, won the Gracious Professionalism Award and learned to talk to adults who are experts in their field. Jaya Khot says she “really enjoyed coming up with different robot designs.”

- **Team 30784, Robotic Rampagers** from **Adams Elementary**, finished in 13th place in the Robot Competition and won the Judge’s Award for their excellent performance in all categories. “I can’t believe we started this year not knowing what to do for a project and ended up with an awesome real-life problem, purchased and assembled a toilet, and found a new solution to fix it.” His comment goes along with the team’s favorite core value which is "What we learn is more important than what we win."

- **Team 17107, The Techno Water Wizards** from **Adams Elementary**, had a fun time cheering on their team. The team finished in 2nd place in the Robot Competition and were awarded the Innovative Solution Award. “I liked that you get to learn, make and program LEGO robots. It’s a mixture of fun and play.” said Matthew Hung.

- **Team 30505, The Water Wonders** from **Woodcrest Elementary**, had fun learning and exceeding their own expectations, finishing 10th in the Robot Competition. They earned the Research Award for their excellent research on their project, which was to save water in water bottles and water used to recycle bottles by adding a scratch on name label. “We just did our best, had fun and had a good outcome” said Anna Barbeau.

- **Team 31121, Aquabots** from **Woodcrest Elementary**, finished 4th in the Robot Challenge and was the recipient of the Programming Award, which recognizes a team that utilizes outstanding programming principles. Saochen, a member of the teams says, "I had a great day at the FIRST Lego League competition. The best thing is the teamwork. We helped each other and cheered for each other. I also learned a lot from my mistakes and from other teams."

- **Team 3405 Lego Destroyers** and **Team 32774 Titans**, both from **Woodcrest Elementary**, also participated and their primary objective was to learn about programming the robot and have fun!

Congratulations to the teams that have been invited to attend the FIRST in Michigan State Championship:

- Team 12546 - Bulldog Builders (Siebert);
- Team 17107 - The Techno Water Wizards (Adams);
- Team 31121 - Aquabots (Woodcrest);
- Team 24586 - The Water Warriors (Adams)

With approximately 60 MPS elementary students participating, Fall 2017 was another year of growth for FIRST Lego League teams at MPS. We send our most sincere thanks to the volunteer mentors, the parents and sponsors who made our MPS teams possible!

Congratulations to all the teams on a great Hydro Dynamics season!
The Best Part of Anise

My brain is the best part of me. My brain is the best part of me because it lets me remember all the lyrics of Hamilton. The hundreds of words and I can remember every one. My brain is the best part of me because with it I can imagine thousands of different worlds. My brain reads and recites books memorizing the pages and leading my imagination to victory. My brain is the best part of me because it helps me write stories that will draw you in and not release you till the end.

The Best Part of Ana

My hands are the best part of me. My hands help me write, they help me write stories of magic and fantasy. They help me swim, and they guide me through the water, like a fish in the ocean. They are my best friends when I sad, wiping the anger from my face. They swoop in the sky, like an eagle. They make sparks as I first dive into the water, and they race to the wall as they blow the entire wall forward as they hit the wall. My hands really are the best part of my body.

The Best Part of Anjali

The best part of me is my heart. My heart lets me love my family and like my friends. My heart holds in the pieces of me, some of them are good, some of them a bad. My heart keeps my best memories that I will always want to remember. My heart lets me cherish the things that I love. It lets me believe and trust the people around me. My heart makes me love learning and going to school. It lets me relax and enjoy school. My heart pushes me to learn, to become a smarter person. So that is why the best part of my body is my heart because I can love with it.

The Best Part of Jacob

I like my feet because I play soccer with them and jump on trampolines. I run all day with my feet and leap into the air. Kicking soccer balls left and right up and down anywhere you could imagine all with feet. I like put them on soccer cleats. I like running with them because the bottom of the cleat sticks into the ground and grass gets ripped out of the ground. It feels very neat with all the grass getting ripped out of the ground.
CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY
RECENTLY HELD AN
ASTRONOMY NIGHT.
DR. STARK FROM THE MSU
EXTENSION CENTER BROUGHT
TELESCOPES SO THE
STUDENTS COULD GET A
CLOSER VIEW OF THE
WONDERS IN THE NIGHT SKY.

NORTHEAST MIDDLE
SCHOOL VIKING
ATHLETES IN
ACTION!
Congratulations to the H. H. Dow High Debate Team for an awesome job at the MSU tournament a couple of weekends ago. The novice team of Ben Vercellino and Lillian Pressnell broke to semi-finals before being locked out by the Dow team of Irshad Husian and Madeline Poupard.

Irshad and Madeline went on to win the tournament defeating Niles West from Chicago on a 3-0.

The following students earned individual speaker awards: Lillian Pressnell 4th speaker; Madeline Poupard 7th speaker; Irshad Husian 8th Speaker. In the varsity division, Tayce Shamamian and David Wang broke to quarterfinals. The team finished the season with State Competition last weekend at Wayne State University.

These adorable Adams’ Kindergarten students were getting in the holiday spirit making fun gingerbread houses.

The Midland High School SAVE CLUB (Students Against Violence Everywhere) has been busy reading stories to numerous kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade classrooms throughout our school district. High school students read children’s books that model kindness or compassion and/or an anti-bullying messages. Then, they teach a mini-lesson to the children afterwards. Both the teen readers and the elementary students really enjoy these Special Visit days!

A big thanks to the Violence Prevention Partnership Committee, Ms. Warner, and Ms. Sarah Dodick (MHS Save Club Advisor) for helping organize this program. The MHS Save Club After School Readers have volunteered well over 12 hours mentoring to our young friends. Thank you also to Anthony Ruth, Katie Wing, and Madeline Wenzell.

MPS Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017-18 school year for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Please take a moment to nominate an MPS team member today! https://new.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form/

MPS Website: www.midlandps.org
Twitter: @MichaelSharrow2 @MidlandPS
YouTube Channel: http://midps.org/youtube
Community Flyers: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/com

Interesting thoughts to ponder by American Author, Og Mandino:

“Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough.”

“Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.”

“Always seek out the seed of triumph in every adversity.”

“Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new.”