This past Monday (January 15) was an eventful and very special Board of Education meeting. In addition to the organizational and regular business meeting, we had two wonderful presentations: representatives from the Alden B. Dow Home & Studio presented information about their partnership with MPS and middle school teachers presented information on Mi-STAR. Below you will find information about these great presentations.

You may not know this but JANUARY IS BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH. Our seven dedicated Board of Education members develop policies and make important decisions that help shape the future of our educational system. Please join us when you see a Board member in the community, at a school function/sporting event or in your neighborhood to say thank you for their service to MPS students, staff, families and community!

➤ Pam Singer, President
➤ Angela Brandstadt, Vice President
➤ Patrick Frazee, Treasurer
➤ Scott McFarland, Secretary
➤ Lynn Baker, Trustee
➤ Brad Blasy, Trustee
➤ Mary Fredell, Trustee

If you watched Monday’s Board meeting, you saw that the Board members received some very special gifts, heartfelt glittery handmade cards by Ms. Susan Schaeffer’s 4th grade class at Siebert Elementary as well as beautiful pottery bowls made by Siebert’s Art Angels. Thank you Siebert students for thinking of MPS Board members and sharing your creativity with them!

In addition to the cards and pottery bowls, in honor of the Board’s service, a copy of the book “Beauty and the Beak” by Rose/Veltkamp was put in each MPS elementary media center, and the book “Piecing Me Together” by Watson was put in each middle and high school media center. In addition, the Midland City Education Association made a donation to the 2018 H. H. Dow High Robotics Team (The Charge) and the Midland High Robotics Team (Like a BOSS) in honor of the Board members’ service.

Thank you Alden B. Dow Home and Studio (ABDH&S) for presenting at the January Board of Education meeting. It was wonderful to hear about all of the programs with which the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio partners with MPS. Thank you to these presenters: Craig McDonald, Executive Director, ABDH&S; Marilyn Brooks, Retired MPS Teacher and ABDH&S Volunteer; Tom Venman, Retired MPS Teacher; Mary Zeitler, Jefferson MS Teacher; Marybeth Rodriguez, Northeast MS Teacher; Ava Nelson, Jefferson MS student; Sami El-Nachef, Dow High IB student.

Thank you Christie Gayheart, Jen Lenon, Robin Allen and Carman Kessler for presenting information about Mi-STAR (Michigan Science Teaching and Assessment Reform) at the January Board meeting. These dedicated middle school science educators spoke about the new Michigan science standards and the shifts in science teaching practices to three-dimensional learning, integrated science units and MPS partnering with Mi-STAR.
Midland Public Schools is excited to announce that we have been awarded a grant for $88,784 from the State of Michigan’s MiSTEM Advisory Council.

The State Legislature set aside $2.85 million in 2017-18 for the implementation of STEM programs. The MiSTEM Advisory Council selected the awardees from 134 applications from school districts, universities and STEM providers across the State of Michigan. MPS’s application was one of only 34 STEM Projects chosen.

The STEM program for which Midland Public Schools received the grant was MiSTAR, the middle school science program and practices being implemented at MPS.

Congratulations to our Middle School science teachers, teacher leaders and administrators for writing the grant application and being awarded these funds for our MPS middle school science program.

These are exciting times for STEM education at Midland Public Schools!

United for Success Quarterly Report

As many know and may have already signed up to be part of, United for Success is now the volunteer program for Midland Public Schools. United for Success is a joint venture between the United Way of Midland County and Midland Public Schools and made possible, in part, by the Dow Chemical Company.

To date for the 2017-18 school year, we have 3,017 approved volunteers who have clocked 10,417 volunteer hours. Wow!

Midland Public Schools is so appreciative of our wonderful volunteers for being in Midland Public Schools’ classrooms, on athletic fields, on our playgrounds, in hallways reading with children, in the science labs, and the list goes on and on each and every day.

If you would like more information about the United for Success MPS volunteer program, click here new.midlandps.org/volunteer or contact Renee Urlaub at 923-5034 or urlaubrs@midlandps.org.

This Week at Midland Public Schools

- We send our very best wishes to all H. H. Dow High and Midland High students as they take final exams Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. MHS/DHS students will follow a special exam schedule January 23, 24, 25.
- Our elementary and middle school students follow their regular school schedule Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- First Semester ends Thursday, January 25
- There is no school this Friday—January 26—for MPS Records Day. MPS teachers will be busy wrapping up Semester 1 and gearing up for 2nd Semester. (Note: Second Semester begins Monday, January 29.)

Have you checked out the MPS COMMUNITY FLYER BOARD lately?

Fun seasonal opportunities for students and families come in all the time. Right now we have info on …

  - Midland High’s “Future Pommer Clinic” ↔ Tennis, Pizza and a Movie ↔ Learn to Skate ↔
  - The Rock’s Lock-In ↔ the Midland County Family Activity Guide ↔ and much, much, much more!

Click here to visit the MPS Flyer Board: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-flyers-2/
Midland Public Schools were VERY successful and represented our district well in demonstrating gracious professionalism and innovation at the Michigan FIRST LEGO League State Championship in Allendale, Michigan this past weekend. Out of 46 teams invited to States, **Adams Water Warriors** finished second in the State with the Champion’s Award and qualified to attend the FIRST Worlds Championship; to be held in Detroit in April. The **Woodcrest Aquabots** finished 9th in the Robot Competition. Additionally, **Siebert Bulldog Builders** were 26th and **Adams Techno Water Wizards** were 35th and received the Judges Award and Trophy. Congratulations to all of the MPS elementary FIRST LEGO robotics teams on a great Hydrodynamics season!

Best wishes to the Water Warriors at World’s in April in Detroit!

On Thursday, January 28, twenty-five **orchestra students from Jefferson Middle School and H. H. Dow High School** traveled to the Flint School of Performing Arts to attend a masterclass with Ray Chen. Ray Chen is a world-renowned violinist who is one of the most famous classical musicians working today. All students in attendance were able to watch him perform, observe him teach and perform with him. After the event was over, the students were even given the opportunity to meet him.

Last Friday, Jen Rapanos from Well-Bean visited **Ashley Bank’s 7th hour American Literature students at Midland High** to educate them on mindfulness and stress management. This came at the perfect time as these sophomores will be taking exams this week. Thank you Jen Rapanos, for teaching us mindfulness practices for managing stress!

We hope you had a chance to visit the Midland Public Schools’ table at Kids’ Day at the Mall on Saturday. We had lots of folks stop by and visit with MPS elementary teachers and administrators.

Thank you to Lou Ann Bensinger, MPS Elementary Curriculum and Instructional Specialist, for organizing the MPS booth as well as the fun activities the children enjoyed!

This past Friday, **Ms. Lipovsky’s class at Adams’ Elementary** enjoyed a hot cocoa and reading workshop outside as a reward for completing their winter reading challenge!

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**MPS Preschool and Kindergarten ORIENTATION Dates for All Elementary Schools**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5:** 4-YEAR OLD IB-PYP PRESCHOOL ORIENTATION (tuition based program)

- 5:30 pm at Adams Elementary

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6:** KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION (Young 5’S or Traditional Kindergarten)

- 5:30 pm: Adams, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert, Woodcrest
- 6:00 pm: Central Park
Thoughts to ponder by Bernard Baruch:

“Millions saw the apple fall, but Newton was the only who asked why.”

“We did not all come over on the same ship, but we are all in the same boat.”

“During my 87 years I have witnessed a whole succession of technological revolutions. But none of them has done away with the need for character in the individual or the ability to think.”