Ms. Dodick’s senior English class at Midland High had the pleasure of listening to some powerful personal stories about the Vietnam War. On Monday, January 22nd, Air Force Veteran Richard Fix and Marine Veteran Jimmy Sequin (former Chemic) spoke to students about their experiences before, during and after the Vietnam War. Students read and studied The Things They Carried, which is about the Vietnam War, and also explored the power of story during the course of the semester. Having these veterans come in to speak about their own brave actions, however, was the highlight of the semester. Their message about working hard, going after your dreams and giving back to society was heartfelt and inspirational for all!

THE GERSTACKER NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!

Nominate a Midland Public Schools’ Teacher for the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Awards

This year’s Gerstacker Ceremony is Monday, April 30, at 2:00 pm at Midland Public Schools’ Central Auditorium and will celebrate 63 years of teaching excellence.

Don’t miss your chance. Nominate a great MPS teacher today!

THE NOMINATION WINDOW CLOSES TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018!

For nomination information go to our website—www.midlandps.org—or click on this link: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/employees/employee-awards/gerstacker-awards/

To go directly to the nomination form, click here: https://goo.gl/forms/CgKZJuU7ET6cdevy2

To nominate a teacher, you may also send a personal letter via US Mail to: Teacher Proficiency Awards Committee, Midland Public Schools, Attn: Brad Blasy, 600 E. Carpenter Street, Midland, MI 48640

These awards are made possible through the generous support of the Carl and Esther Gerstacker Donor-Advised Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation.

H. H. Dow High School’s 50th Anniversary Celebration March 18 1-4:00 p.m.

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!
The **Plymouth 5th Grade Choir** performed the National Anthem for a recent MHS Varsity basketball game! The students sang their hearts out and the spectators loved the performance!

### MPS Preschool and Kindergarten ORIENTATION Dates

**4-Year old IB-PYP Preschool Orientation**
- Monday, February 5 @ 5:30 pm @ Adams Elementary

**Kindergarten Orientation (Young 5’s and Traditional Kindergarten)**
- Tuesday, February 6 @ 5:30 pm @ Adams, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert, Woodcrest
- 6:00 pm @ Central Park

The **7th Annual Booster Bash** is Saturday, March 17 at the Great Hall. Plan to join us for this fun St. Patty’s Day Event. Here is the link for more information: [http://www.mpssportsboosters.com/](http://www.mpssportsboosters.com/)

**Midland High’s Student Leadership and Student Council are hosting a concert to promote One Billion Rising**

*Saturday, February 10 at Central Auditorium*

**Concert begins at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)**

*Admission is free but donations are appreciated.*

*This concert is to raise awareness about domestic violence while showcasing very talented musicians.*

*Some of those performing: Leland Blue, Sarah Schieber, Midland High Meistersingers*

Additional details about this event: flash mob, personal story, statistics shared about domestic violence, t-shirts and stickers will be sold, Live Oak will sell their delicious coffee.

*We hope you can join us for this very special evening!*

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/](https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-flyers-2/)

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**Midland High’s Student Choir** performed the National Anthem for a recent MHS Varsity basketball game! The students sang their hearts out and the spectators loved the performance!
In September, Karen Staley and Kim McMahan, Jefferson Middle School and Adams Elementary Culture Club Directors, were approached by Dave & Marcia Shannon with a possible global action project. Marcia is an SVSU Nursing Professor with years of experience in leading global health experiences, and Dave is a retired Dow Chemical Engineer and longtime science and math volunteer for Midland Public Schools (currently at Central Park Elementary). Mrs. Staley and Mrs. McMahan worked with Dave & Marcia, as well as Jennifer Servoss, IB-PYP Coordinator of Central Park Elementary, to raise money to help rebuild a K-8 school in Wana, Nepal, that was still in bad disrepair after the 2015 earthquake. With Central Park being a brand new building in our district, it was a wonderful connection for them, and a perfect global connection for the Culture Clubs of Jefferson and Adams.

Dave & Marcia presented what was coined “The Nepal Project” to all three schools and the schools put their entire hearts into the project. The initial goal was to raise $5000 to rebuild the school structure to make it safe and healthy for the Nepalese students. The students and families of those three schools far surpassed the goal, with the help of Dave & Marcia Shannon and the Earth Preservation Fund/Journeys International of Ann Arbor (who funneled the money to Nepalese Project Manager, Narayan Shrestha and matched with $4000) and raised $14,000!! Through google drive, Project Manager Shrestha shared updates and photos of the project, and the students wrote letters to their new friends in Nepal. The money raised was able to provide a new, safe building; school supplies; a media center and Wifi to allow the Saraswati School of Wana to be globally connected and connected to us; and most importantly, a water supply for the school which has had no water since the earthquake two and a half years ago.

Kim McMahan and Karen Staley worked with the staff and students of their schools to create curricular connections between Midland Public and Nepal. For example, 2nd grade students studied water supply, conservation and pollution and then connected that to the water issues in Nepal and at the Saraswati School. 7th Grade Literature students at Jefferson studied Nepali folktales. Dow High School IB-CAS students and IBAT students worked with Mrs. Staley and the Jefferson Culture Club to develop a website and possible business platforms for the Nepalese. The entire project has spanned preschool at Adams through 12th grade, and has been very successful.

January 11th-21st, with the support of MPS Administration, Mrs. McMahan and Mrs. Staley traveled with Dave and Marcia Shannon, with the help of the Midland Area Community Foundation to attend the opening and dedication ceremony of the Saraswati School in Wana, Nepal. They met with the project board, administrators, teachers, students and community members and discussed the new relationship between the two schools, with hopes of sharing teaching strategies and curricular ideas in the future. The school community was intensely grateful and gave a beautiful program, even writing a song about our partnership and choreographing a dance especially for us. The teachers said that before our support, they were embarrassed to say they were from the Saraswati School because it was in such poor repair and had no resources. Now they are the most advantaged school in the entire district and are very proud to represent their school. The money raised also helped another area school that houses 1st-3rd grade students, with $800 donated for classroom furniture and supplies. Mrs. Staley and Mrs. McMahan attended a ceremony of gratitude there, as well.

The Nepal Project promises to provide an opportunity to think globally with our new partners at the Saraswati School in Wana, and has shown the students of Midland Public Schools how much their support can help those less fortunate. We look forward to a global relationship with the Nepalese. As so beautifully stated by Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

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**Dow High Boys’ Swim/Dive Team Claims the Tri-Cities Title for the 16th Straight Year**

H. H. Dow High won eight out of twelve events, including three of four relays in the Tri-Cities Swimming and Diving Championships at SVSU on January 27. A meet record was set in the 200-yard freestyle relay by Jacob Krzciok, Ben Newman, Collin Che and Hans Dehn. In addition, Jacob Krzciok, Gage Bunker were event winners of other events in which they competed. Second place holders were Collin Che, Joey Park, Ben Newman, Grant Ostergaard, Zach Fewkes and Jacob Pasek. Third place holder was Louie Sun. Congratulations to these and all Dow High Charger student athletes who participated in this event!

(Swim/dive team enjoying a spaghetti dinner before the Tri-Cities meet)
Ms. Capua’s 5th Grade Students, and Ms. Schmidt’s 4th Grade Students at Adams Elementary were working together dissecting owl pellets. The students worked collaboratively to connect the 4th grade study of life cycles and the 5th grade study of the skeletal system and bone groups.

With the goal of getting more girls interested in STEM, volunteer and Plymouth parent, Tina Rhoton, is running an eight week Lunchtime STEM learners program for girls. The goal of the program is to get girls excited about STEM through a small lesson about a different STEM field followed by a hands on activity. Over the eight weeks, the girls will complete simple experiments in physics, chemistry, genetics, civil engineering, geology, computer science, robotics, and electrochemistry. Currently the 4th grade girls are kicking off this program with the intention of running a second session and offering it to 5th grade girls before they head off to junior high next year.

2018 MPS High School Graduation Ceremonies are Thursday, May 24, at Dow Diamond.

- H. H. Dow High: 4:30
- Midland High: 7:30

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: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-wtfU4BkZJlbWbj8-yypDpo--DsGIl8brYbjLA3q8j86uA/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

Important Thoughts to ponder:

“This is what I learned: that everybody is talented, original and has something important to say.” —Brenda Ueland

“Family is the most important thing in the world.” —Princess Diana

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.” & “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” —Albert Einstein