Volunteers are needed for middle school Head to Head competitions.

Judges are needed for music, theatre and art.

If interested or for information, please contact Rene’e Urlaub, MPS Volunteer Manager

urlaubrs@midlandps.org
(989) 923-5034

The MPS 2017-18 Data Profile is a snapshot of up-to-date MPS information. Have you wondered about MPS demographics, student performance, accountability labels, post-secondary enrollment, curricular offerings, per pupil foundation allowance, secondary course offerings? Click on the link below for the Data Profile, which was presented to the MPS Parent Information Committee last week.

2017-18 MPS Data Profile

For more detail about much of the data presented in the Data Profile, go to https://mischooldata.org where you can compare MPS to the other Districts in the State of Michigan.

As you may remember, in the December 4, 2017 Monday Communique, we shared that Mrs. Elaine Mahabir, Midland High School Special Education Math Teacher, was a December recipient of the TV-5 Excellence in Education Award. Here is a link to the video clip if you would like to check it out.

Congratulations Mrs. Mahabir. We are proud of you! http://www.wnem.com/category/326908/excellence-in-education

IMPORTANT: Due to today’s snow day, the 4-Year-Old IB-PYP Preschool Orientation scheduled for tonight has been POSTPONED to next Monday, February 19 at 5:30 at Adams Elementary.

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!
On January 5, Ana Geib’s IB Spanish class at Midland High School celebrated New Year’s Eve and Kings’ Day Spanish-style. It is typical in Spain to eat twelve grapes as the clock strikes midnight on New Year’s Eve in order to have good luck in the New Year. IB students watched the traditional broadcast from the Puerta del Sol clock in Madrid and ate their grapes. Afterwards, students ate traditional Kings’ Day cake and were surprised to find a tiny baby figurine (or even two!) in each cake. Kings’ Day, celebrated January 6, is a highlight in the Spanish holiday calendar. The three Kings deliver presents to Spanish children and put candy in their shoes. IB Spanish students put one shoe outside the classroom and found some candy in it when the bell rang. Nobody was disappointed by finding coal instead. Our students had a culturally immersive experience with language, food, and traditions.

Congratulations to H. H. Dow High’s Tia Li and Jefferson’s Sarah Li who both placed in the American Protege International Piano and Strings Competition and will be performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City! Tia Li is a junior at Dow High School who won an honorable mention in the 15 to 18-year-old category for her piano solo. Sarah Li is a sixth grader at Jefferson Middle School who won second place in the 11 to 14-year-old category for her piano solo. Tia and Sarah competed against talented young musicians from over 50 countries to win this honor. Both Tia and Sarah will be featured in a winners’ recital at Carnegie Hall in June. Wow!

Some cool happenings at Adams Elementary

Adams kindergarteners in Mrs. DeGroat’s class learned about wants/needs and goods/services during their PYP unit on How We Organize Ourselves. A number of parents from the class visited as guest speakers to share information about their occupation. The kindergarteners learned about being a pharmacist, nurse, nutritionist, police officer, detective, scientist, optometrist and military paratrooper.

Thanks to those parents for coming in and sharing about how they provide a service to our community!

Kindergarteners are busy learning about structure and function in their STEM unit. They read a fairy tale story, Jack and the Beanstalk, and then used pipe cleaners to create their own bean stalk structure that would serve the function of holding a golden egg.

Did you know World Read Aloud Day was February 1st? Adams Atoms did. Here are a couple of pics of them taking some time to share a book with a friend or two.

THE GERSTACKER NOMINATION WINDOW IS OPEN NOW TIL MARCH 6.

Here is the link for nomination information: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/employees/employee-awards/gerstacker-awards/.

This year’s Gerstacker Ceremony is Monday, April 30, at 2:00 pm at Central Auditorium

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 flyers posted from the The Rock, Greater Midland Community Center, Tennis Center and many more. Click here to visit the MPS Flyer Board: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-fliers-2/
On January 17, the School Finance Research Collaborative released its follow-up adequacy study report entitled, “Costing Out The Resources Needed to Meet Michigan’s Standards and Requirements.” Click on the www.fundmischools.org link for more information about this study.

On Friday, Midland Public Schools hosted a group of education majors from Michigan State University. The students met in our beautiful auditorium to hear about the great things going on at MPS; future employment outlook; what a great place Midland is to live, work and play and much more.

The group then took a tour of Central Park Elementary. Some of the MSU students even took a ride on the CPE playground zip line.

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://forms.gle/1FAlpQLSc-wtIU4BkZJbAvj3-yvDino_DsQ6sxyBjIA3g8j86uA/viewform?c=Q&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

Thoughts to ponder by Eleanor Roosevelt:

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.”

“One’s philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes ... And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.”

“People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built.”