**THE GERSTACKER NOMINATION WINDOW Closes in 8 Days … YIKES!**

Don’t miss your chance to nominate a great MPS Teacher for the 2018 Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Awards!

Nomination window closes Tuesday, March 6.

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

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: MPS Teacher Proficiency Awards, 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.

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At the February 19 Board of Education meeting, Karen Staley and Kimberli McMahan, MPS Teachers and Culture Club Advisors at Adams Elementary and Jefferson Middle School presented information to the Board and audience about the Nepal Project, A Global Partnership in Education. Adams and Central Park Elementary Schools and Jefferson Middle School took on this international project to raise money to rebuild a K-8 school in Wana, Nepal that was in very bad disrepair after a 2015 earthquake. The three MPS schools set a goal to raise $5,000 to help rebuild Saraswati School in Wana, Nepal, but instead raised over $14,000.

Also during the February 19 presentation, Kevin Kraef, Abe Yum, Noah Nichols, Duncan Donahue, and Will Adams, H. H. Dow High students, spoke about their IB Creativity Activity Service (CAS) projects and the roles they played in the Nepal Project. Mrs. Staley and Mrs. McMahan traveled to Wana, Nepal in January to attend the opening and dedication ceremony of the new Saraswati School.

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Congratulations to French Associates, Inc., the architectural firm responsible for designing MPS building renovations and additions utilizing our 2.95 mills bond funds. French Associates, Inc. was selected by the Masonry Institute of Michigan and American Institute of Architects Michigan to receive the 2018 President’s Award for Central Park Elementary.

Congrats French Associates!
MPS Social Media Opinion Poll …

Please give us your thoughts BEFORE THURSDAY

As you may know, MPS uses twitter and YouTube mainly to communicate via social media. We would like some input from you, our stakeholders, about where you would like to see us go from here. Click on the link below to give us your thoughts and preferences about how MPS should communicate via Social Media.

Let us know your thoughts about social media before Thursday, March 1, 2018, when the poll closes. Here is the link:

https://goo.gl/forms/rIxizpcpSBTV3H9E3

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Congratulations to H. H. Dow High’s Terry Schwartzkopf, Math Teacher and Boys’ Tennis Coach for being named both Division 2 Boys’ Tennis Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association and Boys’ Tennis Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Coaches Association.

Photo courtesy of Midland Daily News

In October, students from H. H. Dow High participated in the annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. The results were announced earlier this month. Two DHS students earned scores that placed them among the top 100 students in the State of Michigan. Congratulations to Jashvi Desai and Stephen O’Donnell for this outstanding achievement! Jashvi and Stephen will be recognized at a banquet at Albion College in March and will learn their final standings then. Congrats, Jashvi and Stephen!!

As we reported in January, the Water Warriors, Adams Elementary FIRST LEGO League robotics team finished second at the State Championship in January and qualified to attend the FIRST Worlds Championship in April.

Last week, Adams Principal, Dr. Lipsitt shared that this impressive elementary robotics team has just learned that they will receive the Young Activists’ Award from the group Clean Water Action. The award will be presented at the Great Lakes Awards Celebration in May in Lansing. Water Warrior Team Members include: Cara Bucci, Sophie Cai, Anjali Dash, Emily Gallant, Jaya Khot, Lucy Tang, Amelia Warner, Anise Wu. This team is coached by Shrikant Khot and Ying Liu.

Congratulations Water Warriors … WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

High School Robotics Teams Wrap Up Build Season … The Dow High FIRST Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, and the Midland High FIRST Robotics Team 5509, ‘Like a Boss,’ “bagged” their robot on February 22 at the official conclusion of the 2018 robotics build season. Student team members designed, built and programmed their brand-new robots over the last six weeks in preparation for this year’s “FIRST POWER-UP” game. The Charge will compete on March 9 & 10 at Kettering University and on March 23 & 24 at Dow High School. ‘Like a Boss’ will compete on March 16 & 17 at Gaylord High School and on March 23 & 24 at Dow High School.

FIRST Robotics Dean’s List Award Nominees … Congratulations to Amelia Mylvaganam and Rebecca Kowalczyk, who are The Charge's 2018 Dean's List Award nominees! They will find out during the upcoming competition season if they will advance as semi-finalists for this award. The FIRST Dean’s List Award celebrates outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining FIRST ideals is exemplary.
February 16, 2018: The Midland High School 2018 International Baccalaureate Group 4 Project was exciting and tasty! This IB Project is required for all IB diploma candidates or any student who would like to earn an IB certificate at the conclusion of IB/AP Advanced Biology, IB Chemistry or IB/AP Physics. This year, Ms. Kerr’s IB/AP Biology I students were assigned the topic of Food, and worked in conjunction with students from IB Chemistry and IB/AP Physics. This project challenged students to design a scientific experiment that answered their focus question relating to biological molecules (carbohydrates, proteins, lipids and water) and their impact on their food product. Working in teams of four collaboratively, the students designed and conducted an experiment and completed a final scientific paper based on their results.

Central Park Elementary celebrated uniqueness with a family event on February 20. Families received and read the book, Only One You, by Linda Kranz. Next, the families designed and painted a rock to show their individuality. A rock garden will be created at Central Park to display the creations. This joyful event was a wonderful way to bring the Central Park community together.

On Friday, February 16, 220 orchestra students from Northeast and Jefferson Middle Schools participated in the annual Midland Public Schools’ String Clinic. These students were coached by Alan MacNair, director of orchestras at Oakland University. They attended a recital given by the string faculty of Central Michigan University including Fangye Sun, James Fiste and Alicia Valoti. They also received sectional coaching from members of the Midland Symphony including Takeshi Abo, Karel Abo, Cathy White and Roland Wallace. The day culminated in a celebration concert at Central Auditorium. Congratulations to all who participated.

On Thursday, February 15, the Midland High JV and Varsity POMMERS welcomed more than 45 elementary and middle school girls to the second annual POM Clinic. Little girls from all over our District learned the basics of pom including a full dance routine and an easy kick-line. Each little girl was given a T-shirt, pom, a hair tie and dinner with their very own MHS mentor! The highlight of the night was their performance as the main event between the JV and Varsity basketball games. A huge shout out to the Chemic Pom Team and Coaches Stearns, Forsberg, Rielle, and Davidson for a fabulous outreach program!

Thank you volunteers for all the time and effort you give MPS students and schools!

We appreciate everyone signing-in and out so we can promote the amount of hours volunteers give to MPS. We would greatly appreciate it if you would continue to let us know how you are helping by jotting down a couple of words about your VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY when signing-in (for instance, in centers, math facts, reading, special event, etc.)

NEW: find volunteer opportunities on the MPS website at http://new.midlandps.org/volunteer, also located under Community and Parents.

Thank you MPS volunteers for all YOU do!

The Dow High Girls’ Varsity Basketball team volunteered at Woodcrest Elem. during the days when they had home games this season. The team volunteered their time by reading with students, helping with math problems and spelling words, playing at recess in Mr. Staley, Mrs. Gunsell and Mrs. McGee’s classrooms. A great joint venture!
MPS SCHOOLS OF CHOICE (SOC) 2018-19 School Year

First Round SOC application window is open February 1-March 29. Families will be notified of their application status by the end of April. For more info, click here: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/parents/schools-of-choice/ or contact Jana Kullick at 923-5024.

Northeast’s Vikings for Friendship had a fundraiser to support the Children’s Grief Center. They wanted to help children in need and those who are in foster care get the extra support they need. Vikings for Friendship members took a pie in the face to help raise awareness for the Grief Center and raised $250. A matching grant from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation will bring the total amount donated to $500. Wow!

Over 50 students from Mrs. Bank’s American Literature Midland High classes enjoyed exploring American Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts recently. The trip complimented American Literature Curriculum and multiple themes studied in 10th grade English. Students mused over a variety of genres from African American art to Abstract art as well as a special Monet Exhibit.

Three & Four-Year-Old Programs for 2018-19

Will you have a 3- or 4-year-old child ready for preschool fall of 2018? If so, check out our brand new 3-year-old preschool or our two 4-year-old programs. These three MPS-quality preschool programs as well as our Young 5’s Kindergarten program will be located in our newly renovated MPS Early Childhood Center at Carpenter Street School.

For more info on these programs, click here: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/preschool/ or contact Jolene Laetz at (989) 923-5070 or laetzja@midlandps.org.

Thoughts to ponder by Olympic Gold Medalist, Scott Hamilton:

“The high road is always respected. Honesty and integrity are always rewarded.”

“Adversity, and perseverance and all these things can shape you. They can give you a value and a self-esteem that is priceless.”

“Always try to maintain complete tolerance and always make an effort to give people more than they expect.”

7th Annual Booster Bash Saturday, March 17th 6:30 pm at the Great Hall

For info and to purchase tickets: http://www.mpssportsboosters.com/

Friday, March 9 — HALF DAY OF INSTRUCTION

for staff afternoon professional development. Check with your child’s school for exact dismissal time.

OUR MPS COMMUNITY FLYER BOARD IS ON FIRE!

Okay ... not literally ... but great opportunities are coming in every day!

Spring and summer clinics, camps, fun events and more are already posted!

Check the MPS FLYER BOARD WEEKLY!


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-wftU4BkZjbAvjS-yypDipoDsQi8brYbLA3q8j86uA/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link