MPS Bond Status Update

The 2.95 mills renovation and building bond approved by voters in February of 2015 included a series of three bonds. The sale of the Series One bonds occurred in April of 2015 for $72 million. Series One bond proceeds have allowed renovation/construction work to occur in almost every building in the District with much more to come.

As Series One bond work nears completion in the Spring 2019, we are pleased to say we are approximately $5 million under budget. If this positive trend continues, projects under the bond language will be revisited to complete more work. Series One proceeds also covered additional items that were needed and that fit the original bond language, such as kitchen equipment, corridor paint, additional auditorium equipment, roofing not originally in the scope of work and more!

Using Series One bonds, PROJECTS COMPLETED: secure entries and security cameras in ALL MPS schools; middle school boilers; asbestos abatement; closed buildings demo; Central Park Elementary completed & open; Central Auditorium renovated & open; major renovations at Plymouth and Woodcrest including paint, windows, flooring, concrete, HVAC, new gym and cafeteria, renovated Plymouth maker space; buses purchased; lockers at Northeast; technology infrastructure & 1:1 devices; and more. PROJECTS UNDERWAY: Woodcrest Phase 3 addition; printer/copier purchase; Chestnut Hill & Siebert major renovations similar to Plymouth and Woodcrest.

Series Two bonds will be sold in the spring of 2019 and bond work will continue through 2022. The District has also used capital improvement funds, sinking funds and limited general funds to do additional building renovations and projects as needed. Series Two projects will include: the majority of the Adams Elementary renovations/addition; Jefferson, Northeast, Dow High and Midland High renovations; technology; buses; furniture; etc. Series Three bonds will be sold in the spring of 2023. Through these very generous bond funds, all MPS educational facilities are safer and more secure. In addition, each school will have improved learning environments and energy efficiency when the renovation/construction work is completed in the next several years.

Thank you MPS voters for your support of these much needed improvements!

Your Midland Public Schools is committed to staying within budget, completing high quality building projects on time despite rising costs, and continuing to make construction decisions with the best interest and education of our 7,700 MPS students in the forefront of each and every decision we make!

THE ROBOTS ARE COMING … THE ROBOTS ARE COMING … FROM ALL OVER MICHIGAN!!!!!!!

Midland FIRST Robotics District Competition March 23-24 at H. H. Dow High School

Both MPS award-winning high school robotics teams will be competing…

HH Dow High’s Team 2619 The Charge

Midland High’s Team 5509 Like a Boss

The 2018 competition is called "FIRST POWER UP™" and it finds our teams trapped in an 8bit video game. On the video game-themed field, two alliances of three robots each gather power cubes to score points and gain control of the field and then climb a tower to defeat the boss at the close of each match. For more information go to: http://www.first-gibr.org/ Entry and Parking are Free!

Everyone is welcome to come, watch and cheer for their favorite teams & robots!
Saturday, March 17th
6:30 pm at the Great Hall

Come and enjoy casino night, auction, raffle, small plate buffet, desserts, a DJ and much more with a fun, festive St. Patty's Day theme!

This week, the Jefferson TechnoHuskies will compete in the Super-Regional Qualifier in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. They will compete with more than 70 middle school and high school FTC teams from 11 states. Best Wishes TechoHuskies!

The Dow High Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, competed at the Kettering University FIRST Robotics Competition March 9-10 with 41 other Michigan teams. The Charge won the Engineering Inspiration Award, which celebrates a team’s outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school as well as their community. During the competition The Charge was selected to be part of the 7th place Alliance for playoffs where they advanced to the quarterfinals. The 2018 competition is called “FIRST POWER UP™” and it finds our teams trapped in an 8bit video game. On the video game-themed field, two alliances of three robots each gather power cubes to score points and gain control of the field and then climb a tower to defeat the boss at the close of each match. Dow High Math teacher, Sean Murray, coaches the team. This is the team’s 11th year of competition. More information can be found here: http://www.the-charge.com/
It's Kindergarten Registration Time

Will you have a 5-year-old by September 1st? If so, now is the time to register him/her for Young 5’s Kindergarten and/or the traditional Kindergarten class of 2018-19.

Here is the link for lots of important Kindergarten information:
https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/kindergarten/

For more information about Kindergarten, contact the MPS school your child will attend. A list of the schools and their phone numbers is on the final page of this newsletter.

If you have family, friends or neighbors who will have a 5-year-old for the 2018-19 kindergarten class, please share this information with them.

Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District V Festival Results

Congratulations to the over 750 Midland Public School students who participated in MSBOA District V Band and Orchestra Festival recently. Thirteen MPS bands and orchestras performed on Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3. These students were rated on a scale of 1 to 5 by expert judges on both their prepared performances and their ability to sight-read and perform music they had never seen before. The results were as follows:

- The Jefferson 8th Grade Band earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Jefferson 8th Grade Orchestra earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Northeast 8th Grade Band earned 2nd division ratings in all categories.
- The Northeast 8th Grade Orchestra earned a 2nd division rating and two 1st division ratings in performance and a 2nd division rating in sight-reading.
- The Dow High Green Band earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Dow High Gold Band earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Dow High Symphonic Band earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Dow High Concert Orchestra earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Dow High Symphony Orchestra earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Midland High Blue Band earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Midland High Gold Band earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Midland High Symphonic Band earned 1st division ratings in all categories.
- The Midland High Symphony Orchestra earned 1st division ratings in performance and a 2nd division rating in sight-reading.

Congratulations to Carrie Keeley, Jefferson Middle School Art Teacher, whose artwork “Jaybird” was chosen as a winner in the 54th Annual MEA/MAEA Art Acquisitions Purchase Exhibition 2018! The Michigan Art Education Association chose Ms. Keeley’s reduction linocut "Jaybird" as their purchase for this year. The exhibit opened March 5th and will be on display at the MEA headquarters in East Lansing until April 18th. The public is invited to attend and the winners can also be viewed at www.mea.org/awards/art

CongratulationsMs. Keeley!

VOLUNTEERS: looking to help out? Check out the MPS website, under Community or Parents and click “Volunteer Opportunities” or go to new.midlandps.org/volunteer

PRINCIPALS/TEACHERS/SCHOOL SUPPORT: looking for volunteers? Contact Renee Urlaub, MPS Volunteer Manager, with details of your need and it can be added to the “Volunteer Opportunities” page.

For info contact Renee at 923-5034 or urlaubrs@midlandps.org.

The Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition banquet was held this past weekend. Congrats to Dow High’s top two finishers! Out of 5,025 students who took the test, Jashvi Desai is a freshman who placed 43rd in the State.

Stephen O’Donnell is a junior who placed 29th in the State and was the top scorer in Midland County.

Congrats Jashvi & Stephen!
MPS was well represented at the 2018 Michigan Science Teachers Association Conference held in Lansing, March 2-3. This year’s conference theme was Celebrating Michigan Science and many of the 250 sessions did just that. Attendees were provided with opportunities to network with other science teachers and participate in learning experiences geared toward advancing Michigan’s transition to the new science standards. This year, Jefferson Middle School teachers Christine Brillhart and Christie Gayheart lead a learning session titled, “Spandex of Gravity - Modeling the Very Fabric of Space and Time!”. Session participants were engaged in a science modeling lesson that was collaboratively developed by Ms. Brillhart, Ms. Gayheart and Mr. Hackbarth. The conference was a great learning experience, and those attending look forward to sharing their learning with MPS colleagues. Thank you to Ms. Brillhart and Ms. Gayheart for presenting at the 2018 MSTA Conference and representing MPS so admirably!

First Graders from Mrs. Noey and Mrs. Sopcap’s classrooms at Plymouth Elementary took action during their Sharing the Planet Unit of Inquiry to collect items for the Humane Society. They learned that even ordinary people can take action and together do extraordinary things!

March is Reading Month at MPS
If you have (or have had) a child in an MPS elementary school, your child has many fond memories of March is Reading Month. Each year our teachers, media center para-professionals and staff do a great job highlighting the importance of reading and making fun memories during this month that celebrates reading. One of my favorite things to do each March is visit our elementary schools and read a fun baseball story to our students. Before the month is over, I will have had a chance to read at all of our elementary schools.

Ask your child how their school is celebrating March is Reading Month and to share some of their favorite parts of this fun month with you. Here is one of our favorites Reading Month memories. Woodcrest classroom teacher, Hollie Brock in 2016 was Ms. Frizzle from The Magic School Bus.

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-wftU4BkZ.JbAvbjS-yypDino_DeQ8rYblLA3q8j86uA/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

wise words

Wise thoughts to ponder:

“In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can.” — Nikos Kazantzakis

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

“The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential … these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” — Confucius