On February 4, students from Plymouth and Central Park presented to the Midland Parks and Recreation Department, a donation toward the new Miracle Field. They helped kick off the city’s crowdfunding campaign that was started for the Miracle Field. The donation is being put toward easily accessible playground equipment.

The idea began with the Plymouth Pioneer Programmers First Lego League team. The FLL team had to do a community action project as part of their season. After doing research and interviewing Ms. Karen Murphy from the Parks and Recreation Department, they decided on helping fund equipment for the new park that is in the works. Through a pop can drive and generous donations, they were able to raise $1,500. The team didn’t stop there! They reached out to the students at Central Park on the Student Leadership Team.

The Plymouth team emailed Central Park their idea. Central Park was quick to jump on board and help their friends at Plymouth. The Student Leadership Team raised an additional $200 toward the project.

The start of an idea from a small rookie robotics team and collaborative efforts with a neighboring school were celebrated and then recognized. It all started with an idea, communication, and collaboration. These students have made a difference!

For updates, information and opportunities, visit their Facebook page: Middle of the Mitt Miracle League or website: www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/miraclefield.

MPS Safety Initiatives

As you know, since 2015 MPS has been working hard to enhance safety in our schools for students, staff and visitors. Here are just a few improvements made across the District in the past five years: secure school entrances, card readers, security cameras, window filming, classroom door lockdown plates, ALICE safety protocol staff training, traffic flow, Emergency Operations Manual, digital radios, and much more.

MPS is about to begin implementation of a new school safety platform—RAPTOR. Within the next few weeks, MPS will implement Phase I, which is the Visitor Management System. Once Phase I is completed, all school visitors will have their driver's license scanned when they enter our school offices. The system will quickly search several federal and state databases and then print an ID badge for those who are not flagged as a threat to the school community.

RAPTOR’S Phase II includes implementation of a Volunteer Management System (to replace our current United for Success volunteer database).

RAPTOR’S Phase III will include implementation of a powerful District-wide Emergency Response Platform.

Stay tuned! We will keep you informed as we work through the implementation of each of the phases of the RAPTOR platform!
Brooklen Reid has been named Dow High Work Based Learning Student of the Month. Brooklen was nominated by her colleagues at The Midland County Clerk’s Office for her outstanding work ethic and contributions to her work group. As a member of the Clerk’s office, Brooklen’s responsibilities include the processing and issuance of birth certificates, death certificates, marriage licenses, assumed names, military records, and concealed pistol licenses. Brooklen is also responsible for processing and delivering all of the incoming mail for the County Services Building and the Midland Courthouse. She also assists in preparation for local elections, as well as administering state and federal elections. Brooklen’s colleagues state that her greatest strength is being extremely detail oriented. She is organized, on time and always ready for the day. When asked what they enjoy most about having Brooklen on staff, her supervisor stated, “I enjoy the fact that I have another team member who can be trusted to do complex tasks accurately and timely. Our staff also enjoys that Brooklen is always quick to help and brings a “can do” attitude to work with her every day.”

Congratulations, Brooklen! Keep up the Great Work!

Nominate a great MPS team member for a SHINING STAR today!

MPS Team Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019-20 school year for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Please take a moment to nominate an MPS team member today! https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form

Dow Science & Sustainability Education Center Summer Internship for High School Students

Current Grade 9-11 students are encouraged to consider applying to be a paid summer intern for the Dow Science and Sustainability Education Center (DSSEC) Summer Research Experience at Saginaw Valley State University.

Program dates are June 29 – August 6, 2020. The anticipated schedule is Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Current Grade 9-11 students interested in a paid summer internship with the Dow SSEC must complete the online application form and submit their cover letter & resume by March 27, 2020.

All application materials can be found at this link: https://www.svsu.edu/dowsciencessustainabilityeducationcenter/summerresearchexperience/

Midland Public Schools’ staff members win pop-up pizza eating contest a week ago

To commemorate Pizza Sam’s 60-year anniversary in downtown Midland, Midland Daily News hosted a pizza challenge. The MPS 6-person team—Jeff Jaster, Associate Superintendent; Eric Albright, MHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director; Margaret Doan, Plymouth Elementary Principal; Paul Schroll, Siebert Elementary Principal; Matt Murphy, DHS Assistant Principal; and Dave Dziedzic, Director of Technology proved they were the pizza champs over their worthy opponents—Midland Fire Department, Midland Business Alliance and a team from the Midland Daily News. Mr. Jaster said when asked for a statement by MDN, “… It was just a lot of fun to get together. It’s not very often that we as school employees get to leave the building—you never get a lunch out, so this was our version of a lunch out.”

Midland Center for the Arts has a wonderful exhibit now on display entitled, 20/20 Vision: seeing HERstory

By featuring local women changemakers, the 20/20 Vision: Seeing HERstory exhibition demonstrates how women have been the engines of creation and change within the community for more than 100 years. #HERstory.

From the MCFTA website, “Explore 20/20 Vision: Seeing HERstory as we take an in-depth view of women’s contributions to the nation and the local community that shaped the last 100 years in the U.S. See the portraits of and learn about local Michigan women making a difference today and the change makers of tomorrow.”

You may wonder why we are sharing this with you. We are proud to say that three current MPS employees (and several MPS retirees) are among those featured in this wonderful exhibit.

Sarah Gornicki Pancost, HH Dow High International Baccalaureate Coordinator and Teacher

Maryanne Lipovsky, Adams Elementary 5th Grade Teacher

Shona Siddiqui, District ESL Tutor

Make plans to see this exhibit before it ends on April 26.
Last week, the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT) announced the Michigan winners for their annual Aspirations Award. Approximately 30 winners and 30 honorable mentions are chosen from the entire State. Midland PS is proud to report that approximately 25% of these awardees are from our District!

MPS Winners—Aspirations in Computing:
Jamie Brooks (MHS)
Edie Haase (MHS)
Ellie Haycock (MHS)
Therese Joffre (MHS)
Maylee Rielle (MHS)
Ashley Seigmund (MHS)
Kiran Sequeira (DHS)
Julianna Thompson (MHS) [photo unavailable]

MPS Rising Star Awards:
Madeleine Hong (DHS)
Abigail Yoo (DHS)

MPS Honorable Mentions:
Courtney Collamer (MHS) [photo unavailable]
Abby Haag (MHS)
Nicole James (MHS)
Eden Ozkan (MHS)
Meghana Reddy (MHS)
Alexa Swanson (MHS)

Award Info From NCWIT: The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC) honors 9th-12th grade students for their computing-related achievements and interests, and encourages them to pursue their passions. Award recipients are selected based on their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing, as demonstrated by their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, tenacity in the face of barriers to access, and plans for post-secondary education. Since 2007, nearly 14,000 students have received an Award for AiC.

Chestnut Hill Multi-Cultural Night Memorable and Impactful
Chestnut Hill Elementary held a multi-cultural night on Thursday, February 6. CHE families, Saginaw Valley State University students, and two gentlemen from Dow’s MENA group presented on fifteen different countries/cultures. The evening began with third grade students singing a song about saying hello in different languages. Students, families and visitors then traveled to the gym to learn about different countries and cultures. A food table with foods representing the different countries was also available for guests to taste new foods. The event was well attended with over 165 students visiting with their passports. All in attendance shared their gratitude for such a great event. Both presenters and visitors were thrilled with the experience. A special thanks to the CHE teachers and staff that helped make this inaugural event such a success! We look forward to making this a CHE tradition.
Way to go, Lily Skedel, Adams Elementary 5th grader, who was very kind to a classmate last week! She stayed in from recess to help a classmate clean out and organize her desk, helping her friend put in place organizational folders so that she could find everything in the future— together, they definitely set her friend up for success. Kudos, Lily!

Important 2020-21 MPS Preschool & Kindergarten Registration Information

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Monday, March 9 at 5:30 at Carpenter Street School
IB PYP 4-Year-Old Preschool
inquiry-based, fairly-priced tuition preschool that follows the IB PYP foundation at all MPS elementary schools.

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
results-driven, high-quality, FREE preschool for 4-year-old students from income-qualifying families. Regional Preschool Partnership — GSRP Questions: (844) 492-7707 or 923-6411
GSRP Pre-Registration Open: www.michiganpreschool.org

For Preschool forms: www.midlandps.org → Parents → PreSchool Program

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
Will your child be 5 before September 1, 2020?
If so, then NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER your child for the Fall of 2020 Kindergarten class!
ALL MPS Elementary Schools are ready to receive your child’s registration paperwork.
(Adams, Central Park, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert, Woodcrest)

Have questions about the difference between Developmental Kindergarten (Young 5’s) and Regular Kindergarten? Your neighborhood school office staff or the Carpenter PrePrimary Center (923-6411) will be happy to help.

For Kindergarten forms: www.midlandps.org → Parents → Kindergarten

The MPS Schools of Choice application window for 2020-2021 is now open for In-District and Out-of-District students

If you would like more information, go to our website and click as follows:
www.midlandps.org → Community → School of Choice
Contact Jana at 923-5024 or kullickjs@midlandps.org with questions.

Happy Valentine’s Week
**FIRST Robotics Practice Field**

Thanks to the dozens of volunteers who worked over two weekends in January & February to build the **FIRST Robotics Infinite Recharge** practice field at the Carpenter Robotics Center. Thanks also to the local businesses who donated many of the supplies to make this possible – Ace Hardware, Lowe’s, Home Depot, Prime Industrial Fasteners, MAP Mechanical and SK Saran!

The field is available to all high school robotics teams in the Great Lakes Bay Region as they prepare for this year’s competitions!

As part of their World Language Mandarin Chinese classes, all 4th Grade students in Woodcrest Elementary last week made dumplings to experience celebrating Chinese New Year.

---

**THE GERSTACKER TEACHER PROFICIENCY AWARDS NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!**

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

*The nomination window closes Friday, March 20, 2020*

For nomination information go to our website—www.midlandps.org—or click on this link: [https://www.midlandps.org/gerstacker-awards](https://www.midlandps.org/gerstacker-awards)

To nominate a teacher, you may also send a personal letter via US Mail to:
Gerstacker Committee, Midland Public Schools Superintendent’s Office,
600 E. Carpenter, Midland, MI 48640

This year’s Gerstacker Ceremony is Thursday, April 30 at 4:15 p.m. at Central Auditorium and will celebrate 65 years of Midland Public Schools’ teaching excellence.

---

**Last week was an exciting week at Adams Elementary!**

Adams Atoms held PE classes and lunch in their brand new gym and cafeteria for the first time!

**THANK YOU** MPS Voters for passing the Bond five years ago!

In addition to that, Adams held their first student assembly in the gym when Dow Tennis Classic Tennis Pro, Caitlin Whoriskey, demonstrated some “tennis moves” and spoke with the students about her life as a tennis pro.

Thank you to the Dow Tennis Classic Tennis Pros who came to elementary schools and shared their time and tennis skills with MPS students!

---

**Plymouth Elementary Choir**

Mr. Dan Farison, performed our National Anthem at the Midland High School boys’ basketball game on February 4th. Way to go, Plymouth Pioneers!

---

Many **Woodcrest Elementary** students voluntarily signed their names on this poster about supporting China to fight the Coronavirus and save lives.

The Chinese characters on the poster are wishing China and the City (Wuhan) where the outbreak started to have more energy to fight the virus and to save lives.

中国加油, Cheer Up, China

武汉加油, Cheer Up, Wuhan
Join our Team

**MPS Current Job Openings**

Click on this link for current job postings:
https://www.appittrack.com/mps/onlineapp/jobpostings/view.asp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Posting End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Volleyball</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Tennis</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Football</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Volleyball</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, JV, Boys’, Soccer</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Volleyball</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Girls’ Lacrosse</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>02/11/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Northeast MS</td>
<td>02/11/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Woodcrest ES</td>
<td>02/18/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teaching Associate</td>
<td>Carpenter Pre-Primary Ctr</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Elementary</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Industrial Education</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the job openings above, **BUS DRIVERS & PARAPROFESSIONALS** are needed in our Transportation Department.

**Interested in working with children? Want the same days off as your child? Consider becoming a member of the MPS Transportation Team!**

**Requirements:**
- High school diploma or GED
- Pass criminal background check
- Drivers: Pass pre-employment drug test, physical/back assessment
- Paras: Pass physical/back assessment & Work Keys

A few details about being part of our Transportation Team:
- Flexible schedule, AM & PM routes available, no experience required, paid training, both regular & sub drivers and paraprofessionals are needed.

**Salary:**
- Bus driver: $14.22/hour starting salary … within four years: $18.01/hour
- Para: $ 9.65/hour to start … with steps to $13.12

Call MPS Transportation with questions and to apply! 923-5041

Midland Public Schools contracts through **EDUStaff** for our substitute teachers. You choose the days, grade levels, schools at which you would like to sub!

For more information go to [www.edustaff.org](http://www.edustaff.org) TODAY

---

**MPS NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!**

---

Midland Public Schools contracts through **EDUStaff** for our substitute teachers. You choose the days, grade levels, schools at which you would like to sub!

For more information go to [www.edustaff.org](http://www.edustaff.org) TODAY

---

Have you checked out the **MPS Student or Community Flyer Boards** under the Community tab on the MPS website lately?

**Student Flyers:** https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/

**Community Flyers:** https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/

---

**wise thought to ponder …**

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.