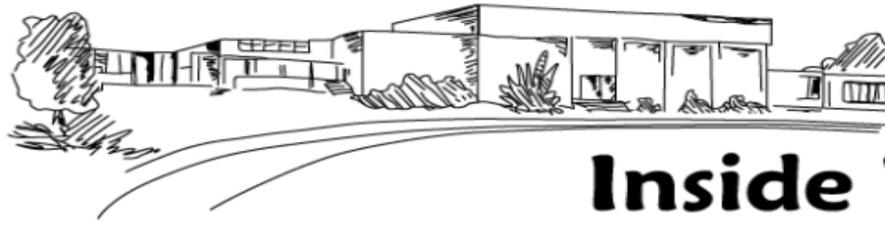


Midland Park High School's



Inside Track

Vol. 8, #2

Spring 2012

Dear Parents,

At the conclusion of a school year, there is a theme that can sum up the spirit of the experience. This year's theme should be change.

In the spirit of change, we were fortunate to have parents contribute their time through the boosters club in renovating the gym and replacing the gym lights. We had the PTA working hard to make cultural awareness week a success. We had PAPS diligently spending countless hours in support of our musical and band performances.

As the parent organizations showed their dedication to the school, the students were also involved in making changes in the culture of the school. The student senate and the students of MPHS were the driving force in the dedication of the Matt Sayles bench; a beloved math teacher who had passed away earlier this year. It was also the students and faculty that created a beautiful garden in memory of Cynthia Brown, a beloved school psychologist who passed away. By showing such humanitarian ambitions to remember lost staff members, the entire school community assisted in fundraising efforts for both the plaque and the bench.

While the families and the students of MPHS were taking action and igniting a community, the staff of MPHS repainted the cafeteria and the hallways to honor the colors of "Panther Pride". They revamped the trophy cases and restored the echoes of Midland Park's storied past. The administration partnered with the PTA and held a "Coffee with the Principal" night to engage with the community in sharing our mission. As the physical surroundings of the school started to visually change, the expectation for change was also evolving academically throughout the year. Starting next year, the middle school will have an honors program for Math and English. There are new electives that will be offered. Finally, the Holocaust Education Program has returned to Midland Park High School.

In closing out the year, our Senior Awards dinner showcased our talents. Many of the students received both academic and athletic accolades and scholarships. It is now time for our senior class to celebrate and embrace change as they move their tassels from right to left and graduate into a myriad of possibilities.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas Capuano
Principal*

Guidance Office News

Stacie Millman
Guidance Counselor



During the past few months, the guidance office has been working on course scheduling for next year, scholarships for seniors, AP testing, Biology and Algebra exams, and preparing for the festivities of graduation.

We encourage everyone to use Naviance Family Connection with your child this summer. Each student has a user name and password to log in to Naviance. The program can be accessed at <http://connection.naviance.com/midlandpark>. Once logged in, you can research summer programs, academic programs at all colleges, and course offerings at local colleges. Please encourage your child to take the career inventories, research colleges, and start building their resumes.

By the time your child is a senior, the entire college application procedure will take place through Naviance and we will be utilizing it more and more. Therefore, it is important that everyone becomes familiar with it now. It is very exciting for MPHS to be using the Naviance Family Connection and we encourage all of you to get familiar with the program this summer.

Please encourage your children to build on their activities over the next few months. The summer is a great time to do volunteer work, begin a job, or take summer courses.



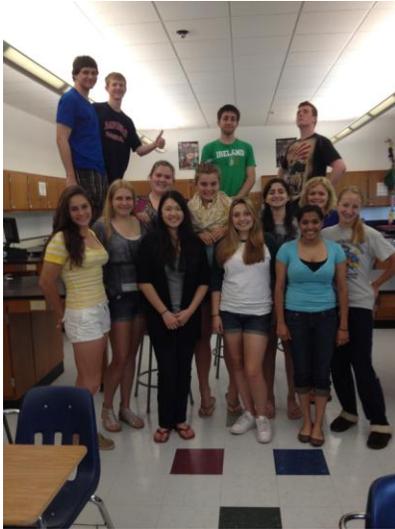
The Guidance Department hopes that everyone had a great school year. We have enjoyed working with each student and we look forward to seeing you in September. We wish all of the seniors the best of luck in all of their future endeavors!



Classroom News

Biology

On May 21, the AP Biology class went on an ecological survey hike on the Ridge Trail at the Ramapo Reservation. “We learned so much about the temperate deciduous forest biome, and we had a ton of fun, too!” said Sophie Boland, a senior in the AP Bio class. Mrs. Dawson organized the trip as a fun reward for completing the AP exam on May 14. “The hike was a cool way to unwind after exam crunch-time throughout all of April and May. We worked really hard this year and going to Ramapo was a fun Bio bonding experience!” said Carly Criscenzo of the class of 2012. “We saw snakes!” said junior, Nick Mulligan, “and we had a high-level discussion about whether sharks or alligators are harder to fight.” Sightings of the Red-Spotted Newt, the Northern Cricket Frog, and the Common Garter Snake were highlights of the exciting day. The AP Bio class encountered a little rain, but “it added to the feeling of adventure!” said junior, Alyssa Mulvaney.



- **Raina Dawson**

8th Grade English

Andrew Anderson

The carnival came to Midland Park as eighth graders prepared to take their final NJ ASK exam. Mr. Anderson’s English classes reviewed reading comprehension skills, multiple-choice question techniques, and the essay writing formula while competing in challenges such as a tower-building contest, corn-hole toss, shuffleboard shoot-out, and puzzle building. At the end of the week, the eighth grade Exploratories classes took to the field for the first NJ ASK Pep Rally! Student groups answered test-prep questions to gain advantages in the field-day activities: bean bag toss, relay races, and wheelbarrow run. Afterwards, classes viewed NJ ASK Promotional Music Videos they made in Exploratories with a special appearance by Mr. Anderson and Ms. Gordon in an epic “wrap” battle. With renewed enthusiasm for review, students were excited to face their final task: The NJ ASK.



In an homage to *Harry Potter*, Mr. Anderson’s eighth grade English classes are participating in a class-wide competition for the fourth marking period. Split into four teams – Grammardor, Vocabenclaw, Wordlepuff, and Readerin – students are competing to earn points for their house. Groups gain ground by winning in-class competitions, receiving the highest marks on assignments, and participating in class. They also have to be wary of negative points for tardiness and missing homework assignments. The winning team at the end of the marking period will be revealed as the points are tallied before their eyes, and the House Cup champions will enjoy a special prize!

The World Stinks Sometimes..... was the main idea behind Mr. Anderson's eighth grade English classes' final unit. Student groups were assigned a different novel to read, each with the same themes of oppression, violence, and intolerance throughout the world. *Friedrich* covered the Holocaust, *The Other Side of Truth* discussed corruption in Africa, and *Red Scarf Girl* detailed the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Students read their novels, researched more information about their topics, and were able to teach the class what they discovered. Additionally, students simulated the real world's governments in games that mimicked communities trying to survive with limited resources, and a United Nations trying to solve the world's problems. Although they realized the world does stink sometimes, they also saw just how lucky we are.



SHIP 8th Grade Exploratory Class Ronnie Eisen

As part of a major writing project, the students in the SHIP Exploratory Class submitted several of their original stories to the *Volta Voices*, a magazine affiliated with the A.G. Bell organization. It was the hope that some of these stories would be published in upcoming issues. It is with excitement and pride that all of the students' submissions were accepted for publication. The following is a copy of the introduction for the first submission by Sean Abuedo to be published in the July/August issue:



Volta Voices will begin publishing a series of short narratives by students in Ronnie Eisen's 8th Grade Secondary Hearing Impaired Program at Midland Park High School in Midland Park, New Jersey. Their assignment was to write a series of personal experiences as students with hearing loss in a mainstream school. The following is a selection of their stories, which will be published in the next several issues of *Volta Voices*.



PTA News

Michele Pagliei
PTA President



Our theme for the PTA this year was “Raise the Bar”. Our directory cover reflected what our theme meant to the students. Thank you, Jim Desbiens, for the great cover display.

We began the year with a fabulous back-to-school breakfast for all teachers. Monthly Market Day sales provided revenue to support many school trips and a spectacular Awareness Week. The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon and the plant sale rounded out the beginnings of Spring.

Special thanks are extended to all parents and faculty who supported the PTA activities this year. As a result, we were able to present four PTA scholarships at the Senior Awards dinner to Ana Gackowski, Paul Lowry, Kaitlin Desbiens, and Brian Bandstra. We will also present four students with grant money to attend summer programs that will further enhance their education.

This year was the premiere of “Red Carpet Ready,” a new event to enhance the prom experience. The day was beautiful and MPTV was able to document a moment in time for our Juniors and Seniors. We hope they all had fun!

It was a wonderful year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who joined the PTA, the entire Executive Board, all Committee Chairs, Liaisons, and the wonderful volunteers who helped out throughout this past year. I truly appreciate everyone’s help.

I am stepping down as President this year and with Mary Keenan all the best for a great 2012-2013 school year. “You are only as good as the people you have working for you,” and I have worked with the BEST!

Have a wonderful summer and CONGRATULATIONS to the class of 2012!



Officers for the 2012-2013 school year from left to right:

Sue Flynn – First Vice President
Michele Pagliei – Outgoing President
Haylee Bell – 2nd Vice President
Sandi Abballe – Nominating Chairperson
Merry Kennedy – Recording Secretary
Mary Keenan – President 2012-2013
Erin Fogelstrom - Treasurer

Midland Park Performing Arts Parents (PAPS)

Stephanie Coppola
PAPS President



It is hard to believe that the 2011-2012 school year is coming to a close. We would like to thank everyone who supported the Midland Park Performing Arts Program. This was another successful year and we owe it all to you.

The students entertained us with chorus and band concerts, marching band, the drama and musical, and we could always turn on Cablevision's channel 77 and watch the local news with the broadcasting department. They all did a fabulous job, but we will miss the seniors and want to thank them for all their years with the Arts at Midland Park High School.

PAPS was proud to give four \$1,000 scholarships at the Senior Awards Dinner. Recipients were Shane Peterson, Sophie Boland, Tom Sullivan, and Ryan Halliwell. All other seniors who participated in the Arts received \$20 gift cards from Barnes and Noble.

Our Executive Board will remain the same for the next school year. We welcome Linda Steuerwarld who will co-chair with Cheryl Boland on our Ways and Means committee.

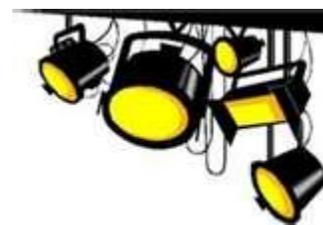
Have a safe and fun summer, and we look forward to beginning another great school year in September. Many thanks, again, to all our seniors and best wishes for a happy and successful future.

Middle School Talent Show

On Friday, May 11, the seventh and eighth grade classes brought back the Talent Show to Midland Park High School. It was an enormous hit! This year's show featured 11 talented musicians, dancers, magicians, and even comedians! More than 100 guests were in attendance for the show which took place in Memorial Hall. The students put on an incredibly entertaining show which demonstrated the wealth of talent that exists throughout the student body.

Stay tuned for next year's show!

- Katie Gordon
7th & 8th Grade Advisor



Band News

David Marks



It has been a very busy school year for the band program. The year began with the highest finish in MPHS Marching Band history at the NYSFBC Championships at Syracuse University. That was followed by an amazing Winter Concert that culminated with a tribute to Mr. Sayles. In early February, the Wind Ensemble visited Highland School to perform for the older students.

Since that time, the band has been busy preparing for the Spring Concerts. This was highlighted by a trip to Boston where students worked with Professor William Drury at the New England Conservatory of Music. During that weekend, students visited historical sights, science museums, and other Boston highlights. On May 22, the students were visited by composer, Chris Bernatos, to work on his composition, "Above The Clouds". The session was fun for all as the students brought the music to a new level and learned about the composition and publishing industry. The Jazz Band made a guest appearance at the Highland School Spring Concert in April. The Spring Band Concert on May 24 highlighted our senior members and saw the distribution of awards and scholarships. The combined concert bands will be performing at the Midland Park Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26. The Jazz Band will be performing again in June and then all eyes are on performances at graduation.

The band program never stops and throughout the summer, the members of the 2012 Marching Band will be preparing for their 2012 program "Pictures". Band members will be rehearsing throughout the months of June and August in preparation for the fall season. In August, Marching Band members will be attending the Drum Corps International Night of Champions at Met Life Stadium to view the top eight marching units in the world. Join us at Music in the Park XV on October 7.

Have a wonderful summer!



Jordan Hall
New England Conservatory of Music



Chris Bernatos
Composer

Vocal Music Donna Halliwell

Congratulations to all members of the vocal music department for outstanding performances at the Spring Concerts. The High School Choir and Madrigals performed at the Spring Awards Concert on May 3. The Director's Award for Chorus was presented to Shane Peterson. The National School Choral Award was given to: Sophie Boland, April Gormley, Allison Gormley, and Ryan Halliwell. This year, there were over 20 seniors in the High School Concert Choir. Thanks to all the seniors for their many years of dedication.

The Junior High Chorus also performed at their concert on May 10. Members of the eighth grade class performed a special song. Thanks to all students in the Junior High Chorus for their hard work this year.

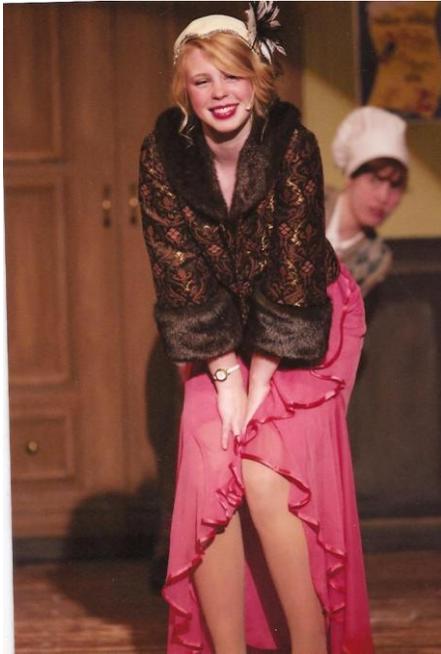
The Madrigal Show was held on May 18. Students performed songs from Broadway musicals. Thanks for an outstanding performance and a special thank you to all who attended the show.

Madrigal Show Memories.....



School Musical

In March, cast members of this year's musical presented *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Seniors with leading and supporting roles included: Allison Gormley, April Gormley, Tom Sullivan, Sophie Boland, Shane Peterson, Kaitlin Desbiens, Ryan Halliwell, and Sarah Mattessich. Other supporting roles were played by Kevin Peterson, Hunter Rittinger, Doug Adams, Julie De Stefano, and Kayleigh Fusco. The entire cast, crew, and production team worked hard all winter to bring an outstanding show. There were many recommendations for nominations by the Rising Star program sponsored by the Paper Mill Playhouse. Thank you to all involved with the musical with a special note of thanks to all parents who helped make the production possible.





John Mulligan
MPHS Boosters President

The Midland Park High School Athletic Boosters Association continues to support its student-athletes in many meaningful ways. While its fund-raising activities (e.g. annual beefsteak, car wash, and new this year, tennis marathon) help pay for recognition awards and team equipment improvements, this year it also helped complete the final enhancements to the school gym project. Working closely with the administration, the Boosters were able to replace the worn wall pads with new, more attractive ones on both sides of the gym. With the completion of this project, including the new lighting installed by the administration, I am proud to say our improved gym is now the envy of the league!

Additionally, both the Boosters and an alumni exploratory group took the important first steps in the creation of a Midland Park High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Tim Thomas, a school board member and a representative of the exploratory group, was recently named as a chairperson of this new Boosters committee.

While there were many individual and team accomplishments during this school year, we are most proud of how our coaches and student-athletes have conducted themselves during the course of competition. This has often drawn compliments from other schools for our high standards of sportsmanship and fair play.

To our graduating seniors, best of luck in your future endeavors, both on and off the field.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

A Message from Robert Leonard (Tennis)

Next season will be one of improvement for the Tennis Team with four varsity men returning along with five enthusiastic freshman including two boys from the SHIP department. An additional assistant coach is being considered to help with the training due to the distance between the four courts. This coach is a competent player and will be a non-paid volunteer. Also, it is our hope that the tennis schedule will be adapted to include teams of similar ability which will give our tennis program a boost.

A Message from Justin Soccol (JV Baseball)

This season ended on a very positive note. The JV baseball program was playing at a high level, with outstanding wins against top tier competition such as Ramsey, Glen Rock, Park Ridge, among others. We finished with a 9-6 record. Coincidentally, each loss of the season was by only one run. The team proved that it could compete with any team. Most importantly, overall team improvement throughout the season was tremendous. These JV athletes will continue to progress in a positive direction throughout their remaining high school years.



Midland Park High School

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