

**MSPA US Meeting Summary**  
**January 10, 2019**  
**8:45am**  
**Martin Family Hall**

**Welcome** by Liz Weingart, MSPA Co-President

**Than Healy, Head of School**

**Reflections at midyear:** Exams went smoothly--fewer exams than in prior years.

- Than has been meeting with all the freshman in their advocacy groups. He is getting feedback that they feel really well taken care of and supported by the upperclassmen and teachers.
- Athletics is strong; fall sports had a great season. Current season teams are playing really well.
- Arts continue to present amazing productions and performances. Check the Menlo website for Creative Arts information.
- Keith Wheeler: New Chief of Institutional Equity, Diversity and Inclusion has been here two months. He has been connecting with students and parents. Than encourages parents to reach out to Keith Wheeler with any questions, ideas, concerns, etc.

**Child Mind Institute:** The Child Mind Institute is an independent national non-profit dedicated to transforming the lives of children and families struggling with mental health and learning disorders. They opening a Northern California location in the near future. Menlo School and SHP are partnering and will offer a lunch time brown bag on January 29th: Teens and Screens theme. More information will be on the Menlo School website and at [www.childmind.org](http://www.childmind.org)

**Student Alumni Panel (students from UC Berkeley, NYU, SMU, Brown, Bowdin, St. Andrews U in UK) Led by John Schafer, Head of Upper School**

- Transition into college: general feel was that they felt they were very well prepared for college; the study habits and experience at Menlo made transition into college easier.
  - Area to consider when preparing for college: problem solving and applying concepts is the Menlo focus; some college classes were memory based so several members of the panel did feel they were lacking in this basic skill set.
- It is important to learn in highschool how to balance life vs. academics;
- Two panel members recommended that every student take a class where you have to write a research paper in your Senior year
- Advice for Juniors
  - Don't stress about the SAT and ACT scores; colleges look at the whole applicant
  - When selecting a college, go to a class and really try to imagine if you can see yourself there
  - Enjoy your time at Menlo; take classes you want to take
  - Balance working hard with maintaining social connections.

Don't choose majors or schools based on what kind of job you want to get. Follow your interest.

-Advice for parents

Don't compare your child to other students;

Make it a rule to keep the college application process in the family

Emphasize to your child to choose a school where they will be happy

Don't talk about what other kids are doing; adds stress to your own child

After acceptances come, caution from pushing your child towards a specific school

**Steven Minning, Director of Creative Arts, Upper School Drama**

*The Old Man and the Old Moon* will be performed by US Drama on February 8, 9 & 10. This is the West Coast premiere. We are the second school in the US doing it. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Announcements:**

***Nautical Knights Auction***, Jennifer Bressie and Petra Siltan, auction Co-Chairs

100% of the proceeds from the auction goes to financial aid

We need more people to host count-me-in parties

Deadline for donations for either the live or silent auction is 2/15/19

Tickets go on sale 2/1/19 with early bird pricing from 2/1-2/8/19

Check out the Pinterest page for the auction (link on Menlo School website)

***Parent and Faculty Education Conference***

February 2, 2019 8am-12:30pm "Parenting in a Polarized World: Fostering Empathy and Respect"

Speakers: Dr. Madeline Levine, Dr. Meira Levinson, & Allison Park

Register online. If you have any questions: please contact Kelly Golub or Jennie Conley

**Upcoming Dates:**

Thursday, January 17th, 9:30 am, Blood Drive

Saturday, January 26th, 8:00 pm, US Semi-Formal

Wednesday, January 30th, 8:45 am, MS MSPA Meeting

Saturday, February 2nd, 8:00 am - 12:30 pm, Parent and Faculty Ed Conference

Sunday, March 3rd, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Global Expo