

**Middle School MSPA Meeting**  
**Martin Family Hall**  
**January 30, 2019**

**Welcome:** Jenn Miller, MS MSA Co-President

**Updates:**

Than Healy

2019 is our accreditation year. CAIS and WASC are jointly accrediting us. An accreditation team will be on campus 2/10/19 through 2/13/19 and go to classes, interview teachers and students, attend assemblies, etc. They will provide major recommendations to faculty and Menlo School Board.

La Vina Lowery

Second semester focus will be on emotional and social learning

Peter Pan: 29% of the middle school was involved in the play!

Ms. Lowery is excited about how the creative arts are drawing in all types of students, extroverts and introverts alike.

8th grade: Science classes are working on rockets. Project Based Learning at its finest!

7th grade: These students are beginning to look at process of decision making in advocacy.

6th grade: These students are beginning their IM poems: writing where they are from, who they are and what their future hopes and dreams are.

Next week lunch schedule will be changed: Monday--eat in advocacy; Tuesday--6th and 8th graders buddy up; Wednesday--6th and 7th graders buddy up; Thursday--grouped by world language; Friday--sit wherever and "be free to be you and me" Goal: meet other people and encourage the students to be with others outside of their usual friend groups.

This last semester, the MS dived deeper into Standard Based Learning. Teachers will continue to assess students based on certain skills and competencies which teachers will outline at the start of the semester. Teachers will separate out academic skills and learning skills and a grade given only on the academic skills in the 3rd trimester progress reports. Goal: Authentic assessments of individual student learning.

**Student Council News:** Becky Phillips & Cody Carefoot, Co-Advisors of Student Council

School Spirit:

Halloween was the first spirit week; the MS had approximately 85% participation.

Spirit week assembly during homecoming was very successful as well. The students enjoyed the games and a special cheer.

### Service:

Thanksgiving: adopted a family through Haven Family House; students held a bake sale. Raised over \$430.

Fire relief: they contacted Scott Huber, city councilman in Chico. He connected them to a family (single mom and children). The family will put together an Amazon wish list to resupply their house. To raise money, the students held a coin-wars competition. Goal was to raise \$1000. They raised over \$1700 in one week. Menlo MS will continue an ongoing relationship with this family. Mr. Huber will come to speak to students about being in government.

### This Friday 2/1: Pie Ms. Lowery

Spirit week is next week with themes.

Elections: will be held in April, well before the end of school. Keith Wheeler, Chief of Institutional Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, will meet with the newly elected student council to gear up for next school-year.

## **Katherine Peterson, MS Counselor**

### MS Social and Emotional Learning Events

Character Day: Organized by Let It Ripple. Faculty picked who they admired and had photos placed in slide show. The students had good conversations in advocacy about why character matters and how do you develop it.

Mental Health Assembly: Organized by three MS students who are part of the youth advisory board at Safe Space. The assembly focused on wellness for everyone. The goal was to start a conversation to increase awareness and reduce stigma.

Inside/Out Poster Activity: Anonymous survey to students and faculty re: What do you wish?

Your classmates knew

Your parents knew

Your teachers knew

Your students knew

Your colleagues knew

Students could review each other's responses (by grade); then discussed in small group setting in advocacy.

Takeaways: Advocacy is thriving; connection, acknowledgement and acceptance is a common theme that all wish for; kids seize opportunities to communicate about their experiences; students show a lot of potential to show a lot of empathy;

### Substance abuse speaker, Dr. Danielle Ramo:

Spoke to 6th and 7th; and 8th and 9th in groups

Cannabis (aka Marijuana)  
The teenage brain  
E-cigarettes/Juuling  
Alcohol Impairment

All of the students had a follow up with Katherine after the assembly

Gender Norms, Authenticity, Mental Health, Mindfulness, Empowerment Event:

Ashanti Branch met with the MS boys: He focused on staying true to yourself as a male while negotiating through the narrow definition of masculinity in the United States. Mr. Branch led them in Self Reflection and “taking off the mask”. The small group setting allowed the boys to share things.

Brie Mathers met with the MS girls: She focused on how media creates consciousness and what it does to girls and women and what they think they are ‘supposed’ to be.

Both presenters were very well received by the students.

Ms. Peterson encourages any parents with questions to reach out to her.

**MS Chorus: Liz Bongiorno and the Menlo MS Singers**

Performed “I’ll Be There”, Jackson 5

**Announcements**

Service Week: Ruth Hausenbold

March 25-29, 2019 (week before spring break)

6th: Food Security and Sourcing

7th: Early Childhood Education

8th: Compassion for our Marine Mammals & Homelessness & Poverty in our Community

Please watch zipnotes and emails from advocates as parent volunteers are needed.

Nautical Knights Auction: Laura Krane

The SS Menlo will be setting sail on March 23rd. Tickets go on sale 2/8/19 \$200/each; prices go up to \$225/each after 2/15/19.

100% of all proceeds go to financial aid. Goal: Raise \$1.1 million.

Parent Ed Conference: Jennie Conley & Kelly Golub

This Saturday, 2/1

Global Expo: Usha Nesamoney & Yenny Widjaja

March 3, 2019 1-3pm

Gathering and showcase of the diversity in our Menlo community. Booths from countries all over the world.

Need volunteer for the following booths: South America, Germany, and Korea. Please contact the Global Expo chairs.

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, 2/1/19 5:30-7:00 pm, Knight Club, The Garage

Saturday, 2/2/19 8am-12:30pm, Parent and Faculty Ed Conference, Menlo Gym

Sunday, 3/3/19, 1pm-3pm, Global Expo, Menlo Gym

Wednesday, 3/13/19, 8:15am hospitality 8:45 am-10:00 am Joint MS and US MSPA meeting

Monday, 3/25-3/29/19, MS Service Week