

It's May Day!
Menlo School Parents Association
Upper School Meeting
May 1, 2019
9:00am
Martin Hall

Welcome by Liz Weingart, MSPA Co-President

Nominating Committee, Mary Pinkus and Alli Deeter, VPs of Nominating

Co-Presidents elect for 2020-21 are Jennifer Jeffries (US) and Rita Parasnis (MS)

Upon Motion duly made and seconded, the Menlo School Parents Association unanimously voted to approve the above individuals as Co-Presidents elect for the 2020-21 school year.

Liz Weingart and Jenn Miller, MSPA Co-Presidents

Presentation and games for Happy Lei Day, with participation from Than Healy and John Shafer.

Update: Than Healy

IP Presentations are currently underway. The Menlo community is invited to attend.

Bye Bye Birdie starts this weekend. Please support the students and faculty. The play runs the next two weekends outdoors on the quad.

Reminder from Mr. Healy: As we approach the end of year and finals, just a reminder that this is a time that we adults can be "present" for our kids. Our role as parents is to be available, supportive and just be there. We may not be able to solve their problems but to be present will mean a lot to them.

John Schafer, US Director

A Senior Panel of six students came to speak to the MSPA about their experience at Menlo. Some comments and thoughts included:

In response to "Tell us about your experience at Menlo?"

- ☐ *Menlo stretched us academically*
- ☐ *Menlo has helped one student figure out what specifically he likes and has guided him in what he wants to do moving forward.*
- ☐ *Menlo has taught the students how to balance life--sports, academics, clubs*
- ☐ *One student learned a lot about herself as well as academically*

- ☐ *Being a student at Menlo has helped define values.*
- ☐ *The quality of conversation between students on this campus is excellent; you don't realize it until you are outside of the Menlo community*
- ☐ *The best moments at Menlo have come from becoming close to a teacher and bonding.*
- ☐ *A student voiced an appreciation of Menlo's involvement in the arts*

In response to "what would you have done differently while at Menlo?"

- ☐ *Would have liked time to do more things with friends outside of school--to proactively make it work to see friends more.*
- ☐ *Biggest regret of one student was not exploring more what Menlo offered and what the community offered.*
- ☐ *Describes her Menlo experience as a marathon; very stressful at times. She would have started meeting with her teachers earlier on.*
- ☐ *Would not recommend taking online classes*
- ☐ *In retrospect, one student would sleep more, and step out of conversations that revolved around how much work they had etc.*
- ☐ *One student says he would have established better relationships with teachers*
- ☐ *Another student wishes he had done one of the Menlo Abroad trips*

Q&A session with panel:

Advice for 9th graders:

- ☐ *It's important to do some sort of activity that will help you meet friends and make connections*
- ☐ *Learning to plan and time manage early is important*

If you could change one thing about the culture at Menlo:

- ☐ *Be more mindful who you complain to; if you're stressed, know your audience*
- ☐ *Be thoughtful around the topic of college admissions; be mindful*
- ☐ *There is still a little stigma around mental health; it's getting much better but this is one issue a student would change*

Free Period (Should students take a free period)

- ☐ *Mixed*

Advice for parents:

- ☐ *Be more handsoff; instill confidence in the student so he/she can say "I feel like I can do this"*
- ☐ *If your student is very hard on himself, recognize this, don't add external pressure*

- ❑ *Let your student be more independent.*
- ❑ *Encourage your student to go outside their comfort zone and take some risks*
- ❑ *Support, not push*

Auction Overview, Jennifer Bressie and Emm Shaw

The auction was very successful. A total of **\$1.5 million** was raised. 100% goes toward financial aid!

Upcoming Dates:

US Musical, Bye Bye Birdie: May 3,4,5 and May 10,11 at 8pm US Quad

Buy tickets online through the campus store

MS MSPA Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2019. Hospitality is at 8:15am. Meeting will start at 8:45am, Martin Hall

May Term: May 21-June 3

Senior Show: June 4 at 5pm, Athletic Center

US Commencement: June 6