



Menlo School

Office of Development and Alumni Relations
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Menlo School

GP

GRANDPARENTS NEWSLETTER

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Menlo School

WINTER 2024

GP

GRANDPARENTS NEWSLETTER

50 Valparaiso Avenue • Atherton, California 94027 • 650.330.2000 • www.menloschool.org
www.menloschool.org/grandparents-program

STUDENT CLUBS AT MENLO

Friday, April 19, 2024 • 11:30 am - 12:30 pm PT • VIA ZOOM

Join us on April 19 to learn about Menlo's unique student clubs! From community service to robotics, from beekeeping to Model UN, Menlo offers clubs for all interests and passions. You'll hear from faculty members and students as they describe their clubs, motivations, and experiences. Our clubs give our students opportunities to engage, learn, lead, and connect beyond the classroom, and contribute to Menlo's dynamic campus culture that values inclusivity and creativity.

Kindly RSVP for this event by sending your name and email to Vidya Kagan, Menlo's Grandparents Program Liaison, at grandparents-program@menloschool.org. A few days before the event, Vidya will email the Zoom link to all grandparents who have sent in their RSVP. We look forward to seeing you online!



SPRING 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are held at Menlo School unless otherwise indicated. We hope you'll join us!

March 16: Annual Auction benefiting financial aid

March 22-23: Upper School & Middle School annual Dance Concert

April 25: "State of the School" address from Head of School Than Healy

April 28: Global Expo

May 2-5: Upper School play "Mean Girls"

May 17-19: Middle School play "Disney's Descendants"

June 4: Middle School 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony

June 6: Upper School Commencement

Visit www.menloschool.org/calendar or contact Vidya Kagan at vkagan@menloschool.org for information.

GRANDPARENTS SHARE LIFE LESSONS WITH MENLO SENIORS

“Wisdom Sharing Tea” on December 13 offered Menlo students and Menlo grandparents an opportunity for connection and reflection.



“Are there any feelings better than happiness?” This was one of the pivotal questions raised at the “Wisdom Sharing Tea” at Menlo on December 13, 2023, where Menlo grandparents offered guidance to seniors in Upper School English Teacher Margaret Ramsey’s class, *On Being*. “The course is all about trying to figure out how we want to live and how to articulate those values to ourselves and others,” says Ms. Ramsey. As the students read, write, listen, learn, and engage in class discussions to hone in on their own life philosophies, it’s important for them to connect with those who have been on the road a little bit longer. “What better resource than our awesome Menlo grandparent community?” asked Ms. Ramsey.

Students generated a list of possible questions to ask, exploring themes of joy, growth, loss, grief, despair, belonging, curiosity, connection, solitude, love, and meaning. Ms. Ramsey considers this question bank “a fascinating snapshot of what really matters to students, once all the business of grades and achievement are stripped away.” Head of School Than Healy agrees, adding, “I love these glimpses into the minds and hearts of our students.”

Dialogue flowed freely, allowing time for tangents and building off anecdotes that piqued their interest along the way. Certain themes could

be overheard across tables. With colleges’ early decision notifications trickling in, it’s clear that seniors have major transitions on their minds, asking questions like, “How do you stop viewing change as something scary or unwanted?” To which one grandparent paused, took a sip of tea, and responded, “Even at my age, your life is changing and turning, and you have to get used to each new reality.”

As the *On Being* class seeks to build lives worth living and “capture and convey the wisdom found in the human condition” (per Ms. Ramsey’s course description), it’s hard to think of a greater source of inspiration than the lived experience of grandparents. That being said, not all of the wisdom-sharing was one-sided. In answering the opening question, “Are any feelings better than happiness?” Ben ’24 reflected, “I imagine maybe love feels better than happiness. When I think about my parents, they’ll get mad at me sometimes and I’ll get mad at them, and I might not necessarily be happy in that moment but I know I still love them and they still love me, so I think despite what we might actually be feeling, regardless, we know we still love each other.” At that, the two sets of grandparents at the table looked at each other, nodded approvingly, and smiled.



AUCTION 2024

Neon Knights

LET'S GLOW MENLO

03.16

A JOYOUS EVENT TO SUPPORT FINANCIAL AID AT MENLO

Menlo's annual auction brings our community together to celebrate and further our school bonds while providing essential support for Menlo's financial aid program.

This exciting community-building event begins on March 13 with a week-long online auction that offers something for everyone—intellectuals, introverts, social butterflies, and adventure-seekers! On Saturday, March 16, all 6th-12th grade parents, faculty, and staff are invited to gather together for an evening of fun in the transformed Athletic Center for the big event: a fabulous dinner, dance, and live auction.

Please consider contributing to this great cause; 100% of auction proceeds benefit Financial Aid for Menlo School to help support our need-

blind admission policy. There are several ways to participate and support Menlo:

- Bid on items in the Online Auction from March 13-20, 2024
- Make a gift directly to Menlo's Financial Aid program
- Donate an item or experience to the auction

Visit www.menloschool.org auction for all of the details!

If you'd like to attend the auction or have any questions about the event, please contact Katrina Sitter in Menlo's Development Office at ksitter@menloschool.org or 650.330.2000.

SUPPORT MENLO SCHOOL

The Menlo School Annual Fund supports the educational experience of every student in the current year. Annual Fund gifts benefit our students, families, and faculty in numerous ways. Please consider a generous gift today. Thank you!



Call us at
650.330.2000



Give online at
www.menloschool.org/supportmenlo



Mail your gift to
Menlo School
50 Valparaiso Avenue
Atherton, CA 94027



Email us at
Vidya Kagan,
Grandparents
Program Liaison
grandparents-program@menloschool.org